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DON'S 'APPLY FROM HOME COUNTRY' RULE FOR GREEN CARDS DRAWS ANGER

Democratic lawmakers and immigration advocates on Saturday demanded that the Trump administration withdraw its new green card policy

DEMOCRATS CALL IT ATTACK ON LEGAL IMMIGRATION

Democratic lawmakers vowed to pursue every avenue to fight against the new policy, which they said will make legal immigration to the US much more harder. They also highlighted it will separate families when a member has to leave the US to apply for green card from their home country, a process that in some cases could stretch on months or a year

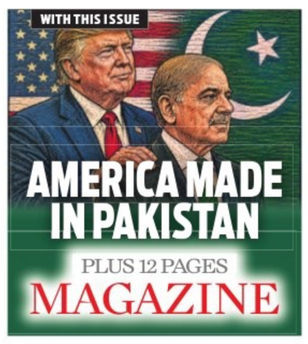
WILL HELP CURB ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: USCIS

- The earlier policy allowed foreigners to change from non-immigrant to immigrant by applying for "adjustment of status" from within the US
- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said the new policy cuts the need to find and remove those who "slip into the shadows" and remain in the US illegally after being denied residency

6,00,000

PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE U.S. APPLY FOR GREEN CARD EACH YEAR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI



Modi gets Trump's invite for early visit

Rubio hands over letter; unveils America First visa plan

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN his first visit to India as US Secretary of State to shore up ties that have come under strain in recent times, Marco Rubio met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and handed over an invitation from President Donald Trump for an early visit to the White House. He later described India as a "cornerstone" of Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy and said an "America First" visa schedule prioritising business professionals will deepen economic ties with New Delhi.

Rubio, who arrived in New Delhi after a stop in Kolkata earlier in the day, held wide-ranging discussions with Modi on bilateral ties, regional security and the Indo-Pacific ahead of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting scheduled in Delhi on May 26. After the meeting, Modi said the two sides discussed "sustained progress" in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership as well as regional and global security issues.

"India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good," Modi said on X. Speaking at the inauguration of the new US Embassy Support Annex Building here, Rubio underlined India's growing importance in Washington's strategic calculations.

"It is at the cornerstone of this important partnership between us and India, which, as I said, is an incredibly important one," Rubio said. "It's the reason why I'm here on this visit — to reaffirm those ties, to build upon them. We think in the months ahead, we're going to have even more exciting and new announcements to make about the development and strengthening of the relationship between the two countries." The US Secretary of State also announced a new "America First" visa schedule designed to prioritise business professionals and strengthen commercial engagement between the two countries.

"We're introducing a new America First visa schedule that prioritises business professionals that strengthen these ties," Rubio said, adding that the new embassy facility would help improve efficiency and support America's diplomatic and security operations in India.

Rubio also highlighted the personal chemistry between Modi and Trump. "You can just see the connection between them. The connection between leaders is incredibly important. These are two very serious leaders who are focused not just on the short term but on the long term," he said. P9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a meeting, in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

We had a phenomenal meeting today with the PM. It's a relationship that is growing

Sergio Gor, US Ambassador

At Mother House

Earlier in the day, Rubio visited the Mother House of Saint Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata before flying to Delhi

Net fuel rates up by ₹5/L after 3rd hike

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

PRICES of petrol and diesel went up by up to 91 paise per litre on Saturday, the third such hike in less than 10 days, raising the cumulative retail fuel rates across the country by nearly ₹5 a litre.

In Delhi, petrol became costlier by 87 paise — from ₹98.64 to ₹99.51 per litre. Diesel rates jumped by 91 paise — from ₹91.58 to ₹92.49 a litre. Likewise, the cost of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) went up by ₹1 per kg, taking its retail cost in the Capital to ₹81.09 per kg. The latest hike comes amid disruption in global oil and gas supplies following the conflict in West Asia.

Despite the hikes, fuel retailers continue to absorb significant losses. Amid long queues and reports of shortage at petrol pumps and some outlets running dry, Indian Oil said there was no overall shortage, adding fuel outage at certain retail outlets as "highly localised".

5 die as lorry rams into SUV in K'buragi

Mangled remains of the car after colliding head-on with a lorry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi

FIVE persons travelling in an SUV were killed on the spot when a lorry collided with it head-on on the National Highway 150 between Halakarti and Ladlapur villages under the Wadi police limits around 12.30 am on Saturday.

Kalaburagi Superintendent of Police Adduru Srinivasalu said the lorry was going from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu, while the SUV was going towards Wadi town from Yadgir. All the occupants of the SUVdied on the spot. P7

Fresh funding for MGNREGA throws up questions on parallel ops with GRAM-G

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Centre prepares to roll out the new rural employment scheme, VB GRAM-G from July 1, it has been learnt that it may allocate an additional ₹15,000 crore to MGNREGA, raising fresh questions over the future of the existing scheme, which is to be repealed under the new framework.

The development comes even as the government published draft rules for the VB-GRAM-G Act on Saturday for public consultation. The draft proposes that Central allocations to states under the new scheme will be determined normatively using the horizontal devolution formula recommended by the 16th Finance Commission.

According to sources, the additional allocation could be released immediately to the two-decade-old UPA-era MGNREGA. However, there is still no clarity on whether the existing scheme will continue during the transition phase.

The development comes amid Opposition demands for a smooth shift from MGNREGA to GRAM-G, with the government earlier assuring a six-month transition period to avoid disruption in rural employment and wage payments.

Opposition leaders have also maintained that MGNREGA cannot be discontinued abruptly, given its role in providing rural livelihood support.

In the Union Budget, the Centre allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for GRAM-G and ₹30,000 crore for MGNREGA to clear pending liabilities. "Now the government is planning to pump in nearly 50% more than the original budget allocation to MGNREGA," a source said.

At a recent meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, ministry officials are learnt to have informed members that 25 states have already agreed to implement the GRAM-G programme and that administrative and policy preparations are underway.

Oppn states okay with 60:40 fund

While Oppn criticised the 60:40 Centre-state funding model as burdensome, sources said most Oppn-ruled states, except Jharkhand, have come on board. "Telangana, Himachal, Kerala accepted it. K'taka agreed under protest," a source said. Previous DMK govt, too, had consented

3 ZONES FORMED

Karnataka hikes minimum wages in 81 sectors by 60%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government has revised minimum wages for workers across the state by 60%, Labour Minister **Santosh Lad** announced, calling it the fulfilment of a long-pending demand of labourers. The revised wage structure is expected to benefit lakhs of workers employed across 81 scheduled sectors in the state.

The revised notification, issued by the Labour Department on Friday, aims to provide greater financial security to workers in the unorganised and specified sectors. Lad said the revision had been taken up in compliance with Supreme Court directions to fix minimum wages.

For the first time, all scheduled employment has been brought under a single notification, replacing the earlier system of separate classifications for four sectors. The state has now been divided into three wage zones – Zone-1 comprising the Greater Bengaluru Area; Zone-2 covering other city corporations and district headquarters; and Zone-3 for the remaining areas.

Workers have been classified into four categories: unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled. Highly skilled workers in Bengaluru and surrounding areas under Zone-1 will now receive a minimum monthly wage of Rs 31,114, while skilled workers will receive Rs 28,285. P7

Phogat wins the dangal at Delhi HC

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court has allowed celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the upcoming Asian Games 2026 selection trials to be held from May 30 to 31, saying motherhood cannot be treated as a professional impediment.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia called Phogat "an internationally acclaimed athlete" and said she could not meet the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) "exclusionary" selection policy only because she was on maternity leave.

"It is acknowledged that motherhood cannot be treated as a professional impediment or a circumstance warranting adverse treatment. A legal and regulatory framework that either expressly or impliedly disadvantages a woman on account of pregnancy or post-partum recovery would clearly violate the principles of non-discrimination enshrined in Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution of India," the division bench noted in its order on Friday. The order was uploaded on the court website on Saturday.

The bench also slammed the "deplorable" show-cause notice issued to Phogat by WFI, in which the wrestling body said she had caused a "national embarrassment" by getting disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being overweight ahead of her gold-medal match.

"Such observations made in the SCN (show-cause notice), despite the award issued by CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport), which clearly held that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the appellant (Phogat), appear to be pre-mediated and are ex-facie misconceived and ought to have been avoided," the bench said.

The law must ensure that motherhood does not become a ground for exclusion or marginalisation of female athletes, such as the appellant

Delhi High Court

Trials to be recorded

The bench ordered the selection trials, be video-recorded and an independent observer from Sports Authority of India and Indian Olympic Association each remain present

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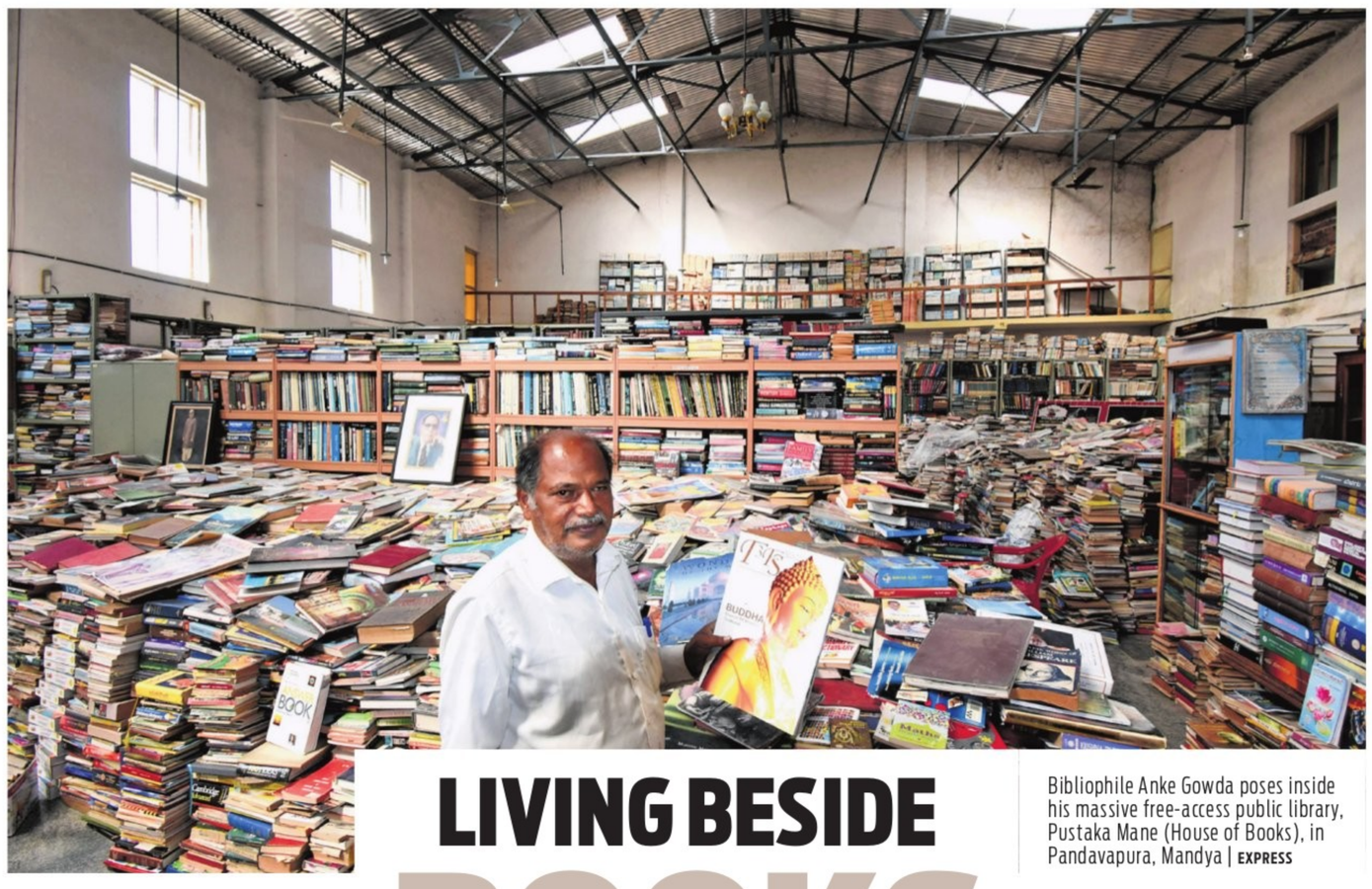
THINK INDIA, THINK ODISHA.
17TH KIIT INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL 2026
23rd - 30th May 2026
Viswanathan Anand International Chess Hall, KIIT
Organized by: KIIT-DU, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
India's highest prize pool
₹1.31 Crore
4000+ Players & Officials
40 Countries
25 Grandmasters
2000 Parents
50 International Masters
85+ International Titleholders
My sincere thanks to FIDE, AICF, Odisha Chess Association, all players, officials and everyone associated with this grand chess festival.
My best wishes to all the participants.
Prof. Achyuta Samanta
Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS
KIIT, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India 751024
kiit@kiit.ac.in
www.kiit.ac.in
KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 24.05.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Grishma • **Masa:** Adhika Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Ashtami 8.53 am • **Nakshatra:** Makha 6.38 am • **Moon in** Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Tstorms early. Cloudy

Sunrise 05.52 am
Sunset 06.40 pm
Moonrise 01.05 pm
Moonset 12.55 am

M Ankegowda, founder of Pustaka Mane, one of India's largest free-access libraries, will be bestowed with Padma Shri, the nation's fourth-highest civilian honour, on Monday



Bibliophile Anke Gowda poses inside his massive free-access public library, Pustaka Mane (House of Books), in Pandavapura, Mandya | EXPRESS

LIVING BESIDE BOOKS

B K LAKSHMIKANTHA @Mysuru

M Ankegowda, a noted bibliophile, will receive Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, from President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

He has been selected under 'Unsung Heroes' category for his exceptional contribution to librarianship and the promotion of reading culture.

Ankegowda is the founder of Pustaka Mane (House of Books), one of India's largest free-access libraries, which houses more than 15 lakh books.

His journey to establish the library in rural Haralahalli was filled with hardship and sacrifice. He even gave up his government job to pursue his passion for books.

Born on October 17, 1949, in Chinakurali village of Pandavapura taluk, Ankegowda came from a farming family. His parents, Marigowda and Ningamma, struggled financially. When he completed Class 5, his father asked him to herd sheep.

But his interest in studies remained. He later cleared SSLC examinations and moved to Pandavapura for his intermediate studies, relying on scholarships and meal assistance to complete his education. He then joined the then Mysore State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) as a bus conductor.

His intermediate teacher, Gopinath Barki, prodded him to return to academics. Ankegowda completed his BA degree from Maharaja Evening College, Mysuru, between 1971 and 1973, and later earned an MA in Kannada through distance education during 1976-77.

> **I have a rare coin collection worth nearly Rs 2 crore, and I am concerned about the lack of public and political awareness regarding the importance of books and libraries** —Ankegowda

He later worked as a foreman at the cooperative sugar factory in Pandavapura. He says he spent nearly 60% of his salary on buying books. Over the years, this passion evolved into a massive collection that eventually required his full attention, prompting him to take voluntary retirement to preserve and nurture the library.

His love for books began during his BA days under the 'Earn and Learn' scheme at the Mysore University Press. With the Rs 5 he earned daily, he bought small books published by the Ramakrishna Mission.

Initially, the books were stored in his tiny four-and-a-half-square-metre house in Vishweshwaranagar, Pandavapura. The collection eventually occupied every corner of the home, turning it into what visitors described as a 'bookworm's paradise.' However, protecting and maintaining such a large collection became a challenge.

At this stage, businessman Srihari Khoday stepped in. Impressed after visiting Ankegowda's house, Khoday decided to help preserve the collection. In 2005, he bought land worth Rs 12 lakh and helped build a large library under the Ankegowda Gyan Pratishthan in Vishweshwaranagar at a cost of Rs 80 lakh.

Today, it is known as 'Ankegowda Pustaka Mane'. The library has around 15 lakh books. Readers of all age groups visit the library to access rare and valuable books.

Over the years, Ankegowda has received several honours, including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 2014, the Sahitya Paricharaka Award from the Kannada Book Authority, the Apratima Ratna Award during Suvarna Karnataka celebrations, and recognition at the 77th All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelan in 2011. He also served as president of the 7th Kannada Sahitya Sammelan in Pandavapura taluk in 2018. His library has earned recognition from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and has been featured in the Limca Book of Records.

Ankegowda has also collected rare coins from India and abroad, postage stamps, greeting cards, vintage cameras, and maps, reflecting the wide range of his interests. He credits much of his success to the support of his wife, who stood by him even when he sold household assets to buy books instead of spending on personal comforts. He possesses a collection of more than 4,000 photographs and 80 books related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Currently, he is expanding the library by constructing additional floors to accommodate the growing collection. At least 10 acres of land would be required to preserve all the books and artefacts. He said that his rare coin collection alone is worth nearly Rs 2 crore and expressed concern over the lack of public and political awareness regarding the importance of books and libraries.

IAF Surya Kiran, 30 years of daredevilry in flying

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MARKING three glorious decades of breathtaking aerial displays in India and around the world, the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force will celebrate its 30th anniversary on May 26 in Bidar.

Popularly known as the "Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force", the nine-aircraft formation aerobatic team has inspired millions through professional flying in close formations and thrilling low-level manoeuvres.

The team, "Suryakiran" -- the "Rays of the Sun", was formed on May 27, 1996 at the Air Force Station Bidar, initially flying the Kiran Mk-II aircraft. In September 1996, the team made its public debut with a spectacular display in Coimbatore, marking the beginning of an inspiring journey in precision aerobatics, read a release from the Press Information Bureau (Defence Wing). Over the past three decades, SKAT has performed over 800 air displays, captivating audiences across India and abroad, including China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Since 2015, SKAT has switched over to Hawk Mk-132 aircraft.

The pilots from the team go through rigorous and intensive training to master complex aerobatic manoeuvres with flawless coordination, forming the foundation of their close formation flying.

QUICK FACTS- BAE SYSTEMS Hawk Mk 132

Crew capacity: 2 (Pilot + Co-pilot/ Instructor)
Length: 11.9 m
Wingspan: 9.4 m
Height: 4 m
Range: 2,500 km
Service Ceiling: About 44,500 ft
Engine: Rolls-Royce Turbomeca Adour Mk871 turbofan
Maximum Take-off Weight: 9,100 kg
Maximum Take-off Weight: 9,100 kg
Armament Capability: Guns, rockets, bombs, and air-to-air missiles (combat versions)

Speed: 1,000 km/h (Mach 0.84)

Subjugation, internal gaps weakened intellectual heritage, says UPSC secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES
@Bengaluru

INDIA'S civilisation was once driven by strong traditions of knowledge, debate and intellectual inquiry, but these systems were weakened over centuries due to invasions and political instability, said Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Secretary Shashi Ranjan Kumar on Saturday.

Speaking on his book, *The Decline of the Hindu Civilization: Lessons from the Past* at an academic interaction organised by Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University and the Karnataka State Journalists' Association, Kumar said institutions such as Nalanda University represented India's rich academic and intellectual heritage, where learning in philosophy, science, mathematics and other disciplines flourished and attracted scholars from across regions.

Kumar said India's civilisational strength lay in its traditions of critical inquiry and open debate, but over time, these systems weakened. He said historical disruptions, including invasions and political fragmentation, contributed to the decline of educational and knowledge institutions that once formed the backbone of India's intellectual ecosystem.

Kumar also pointed out that unlike Europe and Japan, India did not develop strong traditions of exploration, cartography or systematic study of foreign societies in later historical periods. According to him, this limited the outward engagement and understanding of global developments during key phases of history. He also said India's past must be studied with balance and nuance, cautioning against both uncritical glorification and complete rejection of historical traditions. He said civilisational understanding requires acknowledging achievements and shortcomings.

Kumar said social issues such as caste, hierarchy and inequality are part of long historical processes that need to be examined critically in a modern democratic context.

EXPRESS READ

Flipkart, India Post sign connectivity pact

BENGALURU: Flipkart signed deal with India Post to expand digital commerce participation across smaller towns and underserved regions by combining India Post's national network of over 1.5 lakh post offices with Flipkart's tech-led commerce ecosystem to improve accessibility, delivery services and convenience for customers across India. The partnership will initially be rolled out in Maharashtra and Gujarat, followed by phased expansion to additional states in the coming months. Through the initiative, customers, including first-time online shoppers, will have access to cash-on-delivery, prepaid orders and easy return services through India Post. The deal is expected to improve its role in the country's growing digital commerce ecosystem. **ENS**

BECC chief reviews railway vent, drain works

BENGALURU: Ramesh DS, the Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, conducted a site inspection to review the progress of the railway vent and stormwater drain maintenance works at Geddalahalli Sai Layout. He instructed that the remaining 12-metre box pushing must be completed on priority, with a deadline of May 31. He also said once the work is completed, the retaining wall construction can be immediately taken up, enabling the smooth flow of rainwater through the railway vent and providing a permanent solution to flooding in the surrounding areas. His inspection was made as a follow up to the Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner's M Maheshwar Rao's May deadline to complete the Geddalahalli railway underpass vent work. **ENS**

Tejasvi Surya seeks clarity on flyover projects

BENGALURU: Tejasvi Surya, the Bengaluru South MP, has written to Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) Director (Technical) BS Pralhad, seeking public consultations and immediate disclosure of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) related to several proposed elevated corridor projects across the city. He expressed concern over recent tenders floated for short- and medium-length elevated corridors, some of which fall partly or entirely within his constituency. Surya said the proposed projects have not received the approval of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), which is mandated to review urban mobility and infrastructure projects in the city. **ENS**

AO to hold polls to Brahmana Mahasabha

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE department of cooperation recently appointed Cooperative Development Officer N Chandrashekar as the administrative officer (AO) for the Badaganadu Brahmana Mahasabha based in the city.

He has been tasked with implementing the recommendations made by the enquiry officer on a complaint against the Mahasabha, conduct the elections to its management whose term expired at the end of 2025, hand over the charge and submit a report.

The enquiry officer had found seven allegations made against the Mahasabha in a complaint filed by two persons were true.

4.26 Crore Beneficiaries Receive Food Security | The Dream of a 'Hunger-Free Karnataka' Realised

Anna Bhagya - A Modern Form of the Dasoha Tradition

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Aashe ichchegenna gaasi maadadirayya, dasohiyaagirpa daasanagirisenna Koodala sangamadeva, dharma" - these immortal lines from Jagajyothi Basavanna's vachana highlight the true essence of compassion and dasoha that every human being must embody. This noble vision of the Sharanas has found expression in the Karnataka Government's Annabhagya scheme. Among the five Guarantee schemes announced by the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after assuming office in 2023, Annabhagya has emerged as one of the most significant and successful schemes, reaching the grassroots and benefiting the most vulnerable sections of society.

The scheme was launched with the objective of providing a total of 10 kg of food grains per month to every member of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya cardholder families in the state. When the Central Government failed to supply the required quantity of rice, the State Government did not remain passive. Instead, in place of the additional 5 kg of rice promised, it directly transferred cash benefits to beneficiaries' bank accounts at the rate of ₹34 per kg through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), amounting to ₹11,821 crore until December 2024, thereby upholding its promise of being a "government that delivers on its word." Over the last three years, Annabhagya has addressed hunger among 4.26 crore families and fulfilled Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's vision of a "Hunger-Free Karnataka."

Daily wage workers, auto drivers, agricultural labourers, and economically weaker families have been saving thousands of rupees every month on food expenses due to the Annabhagya scheme. For nearly a year, poor families used the cash directly credited to their bank accounts to purchase pulses, oil, vegetables, and other nutritious food items, as well as pay school fees for their children. The scheme has brought about a transformative change in reducing malnutrition and strengthening the rural economy.

Crores of Beneficiaries: According to government data, more than 4.26 crore beneficiaries across the state continue to benefit from the Annabhagya scheme. Up to 2023–24, thousands of crores of rupees have been transferred directly into the accounts of poor families through DBT, ensuring transparency. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been further strengthened, and technology has been successfully leveraged to ensure benefits reach eligible beneficiaries.

A Model for the Nation: No other state in the country has implemented free food grains and direct cash transfer support on such a large scale. Karnataka's model of hunger-free and nutritional security is today being widely appreciated by other states and social experts across the country.

'Indira Kit' to be Implemented Soon

The Cabinet has already approved the distribution of the Indira Food Kit (Integrated Nutrition and Dietary Initiative for Revitalizing Annabhagya Beneficiaries) in place of the additional 5 kg of rice under the Annabhagya scheme. Based on family size, beneficiaries will receive tur dal, sunflower oil, sugar, and salt instead of the additional rice.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BENGALURU

A 46-year-old man, declared brain dead following a road accident, has helped four people after his family chose to donate his organs. Dalu (46), a resident of Arvathoklu near Gonikoppal in Kodagu, was admitted at Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KoIMS) after suffering severe head injuries in an accident. Dalu did not respond to treatment

50-YEAR-OLD COACH HELD FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING MINOR

Accused allegedly called her to private room, touched her inappropriately, forcibly kissed her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 50-year-old boxing coach was arrested by the Sampangiramanagar police on Saturday following a POCSO complaint on Friday by the mother of a 17-year-old trainee boxer.

The victim, residing near Indiranagar, was being trained by coach Ramachandra, in the private boxing club at a reputed stadium in the Central Business District (CBD). The victim was training at the club for the past 10 years. It is said that the victim was undergoing continuous harassment by the coach for the past four years and it had increased over the last four months. The incident was also brought to the notice of the club's committee.

"The accused was subjecting the victim to physical touches seeking favours. On May 17, when the victim had gone to Chennai for a boxing competition, the accused is alleged to have called her to a private room where he is accused of touching her inappropriately and also forcibly kissing her. He is also accused of sexually harassing the victim on several occasions at the stadium premises in the CBD," said an officer.

Ramachandra had also allegedly threatened the victim that he would kill her if she informed her parents.

"We are checking if the committee had taken any action against the coach and also if there were similar complaints against him by any other girl students. If the committee had failed to take action, even they would be held responsible. The coach after being produced before the court will be taken to police custody for further interrogation," the officer added.

A case under sections 8 and 1 2 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and criminal intimidation (BNS 351(2)) is registered against the accused.

Govt school HM held for making student pregnant

Mohammed Yacoob @ Bengaluru

A 59-year-old government school headmaster, who is on the verge of retirement, was arrested on Friday under the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) for allegedly sexually assaulting a higher primary school student and making her pregnant. The headmaster, Chandraiah, was remanded to 14-day judicial custody on Saturday. The girl student is one-and-a-half-month pregnant and her parents, who found out that she had been sexually assaulted by the headmaster, filed a complaint with the police. The Srirampura police registered the case under relevant sections of the POCSO Act. They said that the headmaster was sexually abusing the girl for about a year. "An FIR has been registered at the Srirampura police station. The medico-legal proceedings are on," said a police official. Members of the Child Welfare Committee, Bengaluru North, have provided temporary accommodation to the girl. The District Child Protection Officer, Bengaluru North (Yelahanka), has been directed to take appropriate action and investigate the case.

MEN AT WORK

Workers demolish a building using a hydraulic jack hammer that sits on top of it on Sheshadri Road in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Woman attempts suicide in court hall, booked for obstruction of proceedings

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

PANIC gripped one of the court halls in Bengaluru South district when a 32-year-old woman, who had come for a hearing against her husband in a dowry harassment case, fell unconscious after reportedly attempting suicide at 1.40 pm on Wednesday. She was immediately rushed to hospital and is now said to be out of danger.

The woman, Amreen, is a resident of Tippu Circle near Government School in Ramanagara Town. Srinivas, senior sheristedar (judicial officer) of the court had filed a complaint against Amreen. Based on the complaint, a criminal case was booked against the woman for attempting suicide at the Ramanagara Town circle police. "In the open court proceedings of crime number 32/2026 (Ramanagara Women Police Station vs A-1 Aleem Pasha (Amreen's husband and others), the complainant Amreen, her father Munawar Pasha, and the accused persons were present before the court. During the open court proceedings, in the presence of the court staff and the judge, Amreen consumed a liquid and suddenly fell down unconscious from her chair. The court staff and police personnel assisted to shift her to the district government hospital of Ramanagara for treatment," said an officer.

Based on the complaint, the FIR under section BNS 226 (attempt to commit suicide to compel or restraint exercise of lawful power) was registered against her on Thursday. "Amreen is out of danger. She consumed some substance before the judge and collapsed in the open court, thereby causing obstruction to the court proceedings. Hence, action was requested to be initiated against her as per law. Notice was served to her to appear before the investigating officer after her discharge from the hospital," the officer added.

Amreen had filed a dowry harassment complaint (Crime number 32/2026) against her husband Aleem Pasha, a mechanic by profession and six others on March 29, 2026 in the Ramanagara Women Police Station. Amreen, was Pasha's second wife. Even Pasha was her second husband. The first husband of Amreen had died and even the first wife of Pasha had also died.

Police constable's wife hangs self

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old woman, wife of a police constable working in Bengaluru Police Commissionerate has died by suicide on Friday afternoon at the police quarters in KR Puram. The victim, Lakshmi Priya, was wife of Rajesh Aradhya, and mother of an eight-month-old daughter. Rajesh is attached to the HAL police station. Rajesh is said to have been scolding his wife for not respecting his parents. Upset over this, the victim hung herself when he was at work. Lakshmi's parents have accused Rajesh and his parents of harassing their daughter for dowry. Before taking her life, Lakshmi had shared her mobile phone's password to her sister Jayashri through WhatsApp. Suspecting something amiss, Jayashri immediately called Lakshmi. Since there was no reply from her, she called Rajesh who informed her about the suicide. Lakshmi and Rajesh are from Malavalli in Mandya and got married in May 2023. The KR Puram police have registered a case of dowry death against Rajesh and his parents.

HELPLINE

If you are having suicidal thoughts, or are worried about a friend or need emotional support, someone is always there to listen. Call Sneha Foundation - 04424640050, Tele Manas - 14416 (available 24x7) or iCall, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline - 02225521111, which is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.

Ebola: No need to panic, all precautions taken, says Rao

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday urged the people not to panic in view of the outbreak of Ebola in some African countries.

He said no case of Ebola has been reported in India so far. The Health Department is in constant touch with the Union government. It is closely monitoring the situation.

Rao said precautionary measures have been taken across the state. People arriving from African countries such as Uganda and Congo will be kept under observation for 21 days. Officials have been instructed to act immediately if any symptoms are detected.

The state and Union governments have issued guidelines to be followed.

On the hike in fuel prices, Rao criticised the Centre's economic policies and blamed the conflict in West Asia for it. Despite collecting large revenues when crude oil prices were low, the Centre failed to reduce taxes, he said. Referring to Manmohan Singh's tenure as PM, he said measures were taken then to protect the interests of the people when crude oil prices increased rapidly.

He said the Modi and his government only focused on winning elections rather than addressing people's problems.

On the cancellation of NEET, Rao said the state is ready to conduct an entrance test for medical courses if permission is granted to it by the Centre. Referring to Karnataka's CET, the minister said the state has the capability to conduct the entrance test for medical courses in a fair and effective manner.

EXPRESS READ

Five held for online cricket betting; cash, mobile, SUV seized

SHIVAMOGGA: Five youths were arrested for indulging in online cricket betting near RMC Yard in Shivamogga. Police conducted a raid, led by the PSI of Vinobanagar Police Station, based on a tip-off received on the night of May 21. The police allegedly found five youths placing online cricket bets through the "Crick Line Guru" mobile application. Police arrested the accused and seized Rs 35,000 in cash, seven mobile phones and a SUV. A case was registered under Section 112 of BNS and Section 78(1)(a)(vi) of the Karnataka Police Act. ENS

Bank of Baroda Renews MoU with Karnataka Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BANK of Baroda has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka State Police, introducing an enhanced salary package for police personnel. The MoU was signed in the presence of DGP and HoPF Dr M A Saleem and Bank of Baroda General Manager Anil Kumar Srivastava, along with senior officials from both sides. The renewed agreement introduces the Karnataka State Police Salary Package with improved insurance coverage and enhanced benefits. The package includes Life Insurance Cover of Rs 10 lakh and Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) of Rs 125 lakhs for death on or off duty and permanent total disability, and Rs 62.5 lakh for permanent partial disability. Pensioners will receive PAI cover of up to Rs 75 lakh, while family pensioners will receive a flat PAI cover of Rs 37.5 lakh. Bank of Baroda General Manager Anil Kumar Srivastava said the bank remains committed to supporting frontline forces through comprehensive financial solutions that provide security, convenience and long-term value.

1,164 e-khata applications cleared in 1 day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE e-khata citizen open house data across five city corporations under the Bhoo Guarantee scheme reveals that 1164 applications, including those from backlogs, have been disposed of on spot on Saturday.

THE BREAKUP

Total applications	1972
New applications – 885, backlog – 1008	1008
E-khata applications – 809; disposed –573	573
Mutation applications – 123; disposed – 73	73
New khata applications – 234 disposed – 66	66
B to A khata applications – 304, disposed – 70	70

KRIDL engineers cheat govt of ₹5cr, contractor gets advance bail

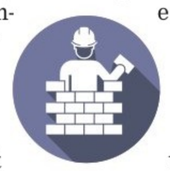
YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

FOUR engineers from the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) allegedly got Rs 5 crore released from the state exchequer, claiming that works worth Rs 5 crore had been completed in Bengaluru Urban and Mandya Zilla Panchayats.

The Lokayukta police disclosed this while filing objections before the Special Court for Lokayukta cases to the anticipatory bail application filed by Nagaraju Y G, an empanelled KRIDL contractor, who manages SLV Constructions.

The Lokayukta police said they have registered a suo motu case against the four accused, including the then superintendent engineer, two executive engineers and assistant engineer, KRIDL, East Range, Bengaluru city.

The four accused colluded with the contractors to cheat the government, the Lokayukta police revealed. The projects were claimed to be completed though no proposals had been sent by the chief executive officers of Bengaluru Urban and Mandya zilla panchayats. But the accused created fake memorandums, work orders and unique transaction reference numbers. They also succeeded in creating computerised receipts and vouchers and got Rs 5 crore released.



Contractor Nagaraju allegedly facilitated the four in getting the funds on the basis of fake documents. But he denied any involvement and nexus with the accused, while expressing apprehension over his arrest. The public prosecutor contended that the custodial interrogation of Nagaraju is necessary.

After hearing both parties, Judge KM Radhakrishna, Special Court for Lokayukta Cases, on Thursday noted that the petitioner's name does not appear in either the complaint or FIR. While denying any role, Nagaraju produced photographs to show the completion of work entrusted to him. Though the public prosecutor opposed bail, the material on record would not prima facie disclose the manner in which the petitioner is responsible for the misappropriation of the amount and creation of documents, said the judge, granting anticipatory bail, with the condition that the petitioner appears before the Lokayukta police within a week.

The Chief Minister has already instructed that the food kit include a maximum quantity of nutritious turdal. Additionally, software enabling QR code scanning will be installed at every fair price shop, based on which ration card holders will receive the Indira Food Kit.

Siddaramaiah Becomes 'Annaramayya'!

Within hours of taking oath as CM in 2013, Siddaramaiah announced the Annabhagya scheme. Initially offering rice at just ₹1 and later making it completely free, he earned recognition for addressing hunger among the poor. Since then, people of Karnataka affectionately began calling him "Annaramayya." The Annabhagya scheme was reinitiated in a stronger form after 2023 as one of the Five Guarantees. What began as a politically determined welfare initiative has become a source of hope for people in the state.

Statistics

4.26 Crore Total Beneficiaries
More than ₹18,897 Crore utilised so far on Annabhagya

"My son met with an accident and has been bedridden at home. I am the only earning member supporting the family. Earlier, when there was no food, we used to walk barefoot and survive on fruits from the forest. Now, we receive rice through Annabhagya. Thanks to our Siddaramaiah, we are able to live peacefully

Jademadamma, Chamarajanagar

"After my husband's death, I struggled to continue our traditional pottery business due to lack of capital. During that difficult time, the Annabhagya scheme became a major support for my family. The free rice and groceries provided by the government completely removed the anxiety of arranging three meals a day for my family.

Mahadevi, Indi

"My dream was to live independently without depending on anyone. The Annabhagya scheme gave me strong support. Without worrying about food, and with savings from all the guarantees, I was able to buy a cow and start dairy farming. Today, I live with dignity through the income I earn from selling milk every day.

Neelamma, Belthangady

karnataka information

A Fight Against Poverty

I know what hunger caused by poverty feels like. That is why, on my very first day as Chief Minister, I signed the Annabhagya scheme. My aspiration was that no poor person in the state should sleep hungry. That sacred initiative which began then, has today reached crores of homes as a 'Guarantee', and that gives me immense satisfaction.

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

A Hunger-Free Society is the Foundation of a New Karnataka

Responding to people's hardships is our foremost duty. Building a hunger-free society is the foundation of a New Karnataka. Through Annabhagya and the five Guarantee schemes, our government is committed to making Karnataka the most progressive and welfare-oriented state in the country.

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Food Security Reaches the Last Citizen

Our department has successfully fulfilled the responsibility of transparently delivering the visionary Annabhagya scheme of the Chief Minister to eligible beneficiaries. The Food Department remains committed to ensuring food security reaches even the last poor citizen of the state.

- **K.H. Muniyappa**, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies

Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharanprakash Patil said on Saturday that the Karnataka government has plans to come up with 20 more Government Tool Room and Training Centres (GTTCs) in the state which will ensure job opportunities for the graduating youth

TO HELP POOR

Ashoka urges state govt to reduce VAT on petrol, diesel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to reduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on the sale of petrol and diesel in Karnataka to reduce the burden of price rise on the middle class and farmers. In Karnataka, the VAT on petrol is 29.84%, and diesel 18.44%.

The BJP leader said the increase in petrol and diesel prices will not bring even a single extra paise in tax to the Central government. "The state government will earn approximately Rs 7,000 crore annually. If the Congress government has any respect for the people, it should announce that it is ready to forego this additional revenue. It is wrong to blame only the Central government," he said. Ashoka said oil companies have increased prices due to the international price hike due to ongoing wars and oil prices have increased in all countries.

Vote-bank politics

Ashoka said the Congress government withdrew cases against those who attacked the police near the Ladle Mashak Darga in Aland, Kalaburagi, those who attacked a minister's car and those who incited communal violence. He said cases against nearly 150 people, including members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), have been dropped purely for vote-bank politics, Ashoka said, and added that such actions pose a danger to the country's security. "It is acceptable to withdraw cases related to farmers and Kannada activists. But why are cases against those involved in communal violence withdrawn?" he said.

He accused the government of taking up a new stadium project in Anekal near Bengaluru to sell land around the stadium and earn commissions. He said Chinnaswamy stadium was meant to provide cricket training facilities, but no new talent is being trained there, and it is only open for the Indian Premier League, which brings in crores of rupees.

Cockroach party

Ashoka said the Cockroach Janata Party is a conspiracy of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party. "It is a nuisance created by a jobless Congress and a powerless Aam Aadmi Party," he added.

Dr G: RS polls have nothing to do with decision on cabinet reshuffle

Congress leaders say the issue of leadership change or cabinet reshuffle will be resolved soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE issue of leadership change or cabinet reshuffle is likely to be resolved before the June 18 Rajya Sabha elections for four seats from Karnataka.

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Saturday said that the RS elections happen as per schedule and have nothing to do with the decision on cabinet reshuffle.

Speaking to reporters here, he clarified that he will not seek a change in his portfolio as he has efficiently handled it and is also capable of handling a bigger responsibility.

"No, the selection of candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections will be done by our high command and the chief minister. It is routine, it will happen on its own," he said while replying to a query whether the RS elections will delay the cabinet reshuffle.

On senior legislators, including Sagar MLA Beluru Gopalakrishna, seeking cabinet berths, he said, "I don't see anything wrong in what they are asking for. They are seeking cabinet berths as they have won three, two, or four times. They also have the capacity. But there is a limit of 15% to be inducted into the cabinet as ministers, So, the numbers are limited."

He claimed to have run the Home Ministry efficiently for eight years. "I am not disappointed, I have no regrets. I will handle whatever portfolio I am given. I have that capacity," he asserted when asked if he will seek a change in portfolio if the cabinet reshuffle happens.

Many senior Congress leaders said the issue of leadership change or cabinet reshuffle will be resolved soon.

Supriya Srinate, Pawan Khera in race for RS nominations from K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AHEAD of June 18 polls to four Rajya Sabha seats in Karnataka, the names of Congress national leaders Supriya Srinate and Pawan Khera are making the rounds for nominations from the state. The Congress, which is expected to comfortably win three seats, may nominate them as both leaders had worked aggressively alongside the party's Karnataka unit ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, the name of senior leader and MLC B K Hariprasad, who is retiring as MLC on June 30, is also being floated for RS nomination. Hariprasad, a Congress Working Committee permanent member and AICC in-charge of Haryana, is also a ministerial aspirant in the event of a reshuffle in the Siddaramaiah cabinet.

Party insiders felt that Srinate and Khera should be nominated from their respective states and the high command should consider Karnataka leaders for the RS. Hariprasad is also likely to become a minister in the reshuffle, they added.

Among other aspirants who may be considered for the RS nominations include senior Supreme Court advocate Mohan Katarki and former MLA Anjali Nimbalkar, former RS member Prof Rajeev Gowda, Mango Development Board Chairman Dr B C Mudduganga dhar and former Union minister K Rahman Khan's son Mansoor Ali Khan, who was defeated in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru Central.

Supriya Srinate

Pawan Khera

BJP bets on Nabin's maiden visit to state

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

BJP national president Nitin Nabin's maiden visit to the state for three days starting Saturday late evening has created a buzz in political circles as it is being interpreted as a precursor to the turnaround of the party's fortunes in the 2028 assembly polls in Karnataka.

It assumes significance as he is visiting after the party's emphatic win in West Bengal which has also been attributed by critics to Special Intensive Review (SIR) of electoral rolls. He will also hold talks with the SIR wing of the party on Sunday.

He will engage in a series of meetings with the party leaders, including the legislators and MPs at the party's office and address the workers at a resort on the outskirts of the city.

On Monday, Nabin is likely to meet the party's key leaders and RSS functionaries before wrapping up his trip.

The key takeaways from his visit will result in the party's revamp, if necessary, as it would be discussed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, they added. The issue of the party's nomination for the RS seat from Karnataka, as the BJP can win only one out of the four, is also likely to be discussed. Union Minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy has held talks with Nabin in New Delhi besides Modi and Amit Shah.

On Sunday Nabin will have breakfast at former chief minister BS Yedyurappa's residence. Before visiting the party office he will offer prayers at Kadumalleshwara temple at Malleshwaram. At 3 pm Nabin will chair the BJP core commitee meeting at the party office and discuss the RS nomination issue.

Leaders of Opposition in the Assembly and Council R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and BJP state president B Y Vijayendra receive party national president Nitin Nabin at Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday

Four electric vehicles have been arranged for him to travel during his stay in Bengaluru and there will be no grand reception or road shows to mark his visit, a BJP source said. About 1,000 party workers will gather at the party office to welcome him.

Priyank welcomes Nabin

Karnataka RDPR and IT/BT minister Priyank Kharge welcoming Nabin, albeit with sarcasm, suggested that the latter can experience Karnataka and the weather of Bengaluru. "He can experience how we (Congress government) ensured that the state is one of the economic engines of growth in the country. Our expectation is that he should also tell the people of Karnataka and send a message to the rest of India on the issues of rise in the prices of fuel, medicines, and unemployment. How foreign and economic policies of BJP failed, he should speak frankly. Also, hopefully, he would sort out the leadership crisis within the BJP," he suggested.

Congress on edge over leadership tussle

THE situation in Congress seems to be quite messy. The party legislators are demanding a cabinet reshuffle and openly setting a deadline, while the central leadership appears to be caught in a dilemma over the leadership issue. Senior leaders, including many ministers, believe change is on the cards. But they are not certain what that change would be.

Earlier this week, the government completed three years in office and is heading towards the home stretch of its five-year tenure. At a big rally to celebrate the milestone, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also State Congress president, signalled that all is hunky-dory, and the party would retain power in the 2028 polls. But contrary to the public posturing of the top leaders, many senior leaders feel there is an urgent need for course correction, as further delay could be disastrous for the party's prospects.

It is unclear if the Congress high command is considering replacing Siddaramaiah with Shivakumar as part of the power-sharing agreement they purportedly reached while forming the government in 2023. The Congress leadership has ambiguously denied the existence of the power-sharing agreement. So much so that it has not even said that Siddaramaiah would be the CM for the full five years of the current term. In the absence of a clear message, political circles are abuzz with speculation, including that of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge returning to state politics.

The prolonged uncertainty over leadership change seems to be undoing the gains accrued by guarantee schemes with yearly budgetary allocation of over Rs 50,000 crore. The government is also making an effort to highlight its development agenda, apart from implementing guarantee schemes. But that narrative is yet to gain traction. Some senior Congress leaders admit that development has not been to the extent they had envisaged, and that the government is facing anti-incumbency on the ground.

Also, Congress needs to factor in the BJP-JDS alliance in the polls. While the BJP banks on the Lingayat community in North Karnataka, the JDS' efforts to woo the Vokkaligas in the Old Mysuru region could get a boost if Congress fails to consider Shivakumar's chief ministerial aspirations. Congress needs to look ahead in its long-term interest. However, if that is best served by retaining Siddaramaiah as the CM for the full five years, the high command should announce it and move on by taking Shivakumar into confidence.

For a long time, the Congress leadership appears to be embroiled in a dilemma over current equations versus long-term interests of the party. Given what the two leaders – CM and DyCM – are capable of bringing to the table, it is not easy for the party to make a decision.

Siddaramaiah – the longest-serving CM in Karnataka, and currently the oldest serving CM in India – has positioned himself as the champion of backward classes and minorities, who constitute a significant part of the Congress support base. The 77-year-old leader, who quit JDS and joined Congress in July 2006, has been at the centre of power in the party and the government for most of the last two decades. His position as a strong local leader has been further bolstered by the manner in which the party high command gave in to local factors while appointing VD Satheesan as the Kerala CM, without imposing their choice.

On the other hand, Shivakumar enjoys support from the party cadre, who feel that his unflinching loyalty and contribution to the party's victory in the 2023 polls need to be rewarded. Known for his organisational abilities and dynamic approach, the 65-year-old Vokkaliga leader is fully banking on the high command and hoping that his ambition of becoming the CM is just a phone call away.

Many in the party hope that the high command may soon end the uncertainty one way or another after consulting senior leaders, just like the party did in neighbouring Kerala.

Meanwhile, the BJP central leadership is turning its focus to Karnataka with party president Nitin Nabin's maiden visit to the state on Sunday, when a series of meetings are planned. With the BJP top brass directly monitoring the party's preparations in Karnataka nearly two years before the assembly polls, Congress cannot remain complacent. The party needs to address the internal issues urgently while gearing up for external challenges. The CM and DyCM are likely to be called to the national capital soon. A lot depends on how the high command handles the delicate situation and carries it forward. But, one thing is certain: no decision can be made without taking Siddaramaiah into confidence.

BJP's Srinivas Murthy may rejoin JDS on HDK invite

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

BJP leader **R Akhanda Srinivas Murthy** is expected to rejoin JDS after jumping ship eight years ago. Union Minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy recently visited Murthy at his residence in the city and invited him to return to the party from where he had debuted in politics in 2013. While confirming Kumaraswamy's visit to his house and his invitation to join JDS, Murthy said he has not taken any decision yet. "I will decide next month," Murthy told TNIE.

One of the main reasons for his proposed return to JDS would be to win back the support of Muslims, who had supported him during the 2018 Assembly elections from the Pulakeshinagar constituency.

Considered one of the tallest young Dalit leaders in the state, Murthy had won the 2018 Assembly elections on a Congress ticket against Prasanna Kumar of JDS by the highest margin of 81,626 votes. The Pulakeshinagar constituency has a voter population of 2,36,000, of which around 85,000 are Muslims and around 65,000 are SC/STs, followed by others. Kumaraswamy's move to get Murthy to the JDS fold comes on the cusp of alleged Muslim disaffection with Congress after the Davanagere South bypoll. "If the community's disaffection continues, it may split the Muslim vote ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls in Karnataka. JDS, which, before its alliance with the BJP-led NDA in September 2023 enjoyed a sizeable support of the Muslims, is looking to win back their confidence," said sources.

Murthy had started his political career with JDS and was suspended from the party for cross-voting in the 2016 Rajya Sabha elections. He had resigned from the party in 2018 and joined Congress the same year at the insistence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with whom he is known to have a close relationship.

In April 2023, Murthy resigned from Congress after he was denied ticket from the Pukeshinagar constituency following the riots in DJ Halli, KG Halli and adjoining areas on August 11, 2020, after Murthy's nephew's alleged blasphemous post on social media. The mob had also torched Murthy's house in Kavalbyrasandra, RT Nagar. Three people had died in police firing.

In April 2024, Murthy joined BJP to campaign for the NDA coalition in Bengaluru for the Parliamentary elections.

Not aware of change in K'taka BJP leadership: Somanna

Mangaluru: Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Saturday said he is not aware of any demand for change in leadership in the Karnataka BJP, and if there is anything, the top brass will take a call. Responding to a media query in Mangaluru, Somanna said the party is bigger than the individual and the nation is bigger than the party. "The party asked me to give some suggestions to bring some improvements. I have been in politics for the last 48 years and based on my experience I have given some suggestions and party veterans will take a decision." To a query that former PM H D Deve Gowda likely to be re-elected to the Rajya Sabha, Somanna said, "Deve Gowda is part of the NDA alliance and a decision in this matter will be taken by the prime minister and the top brass and we will abide by it."

Anekal set to get India's 2nd biggest cricket stadium

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A model of the cricket stadium at Suryanagar, Bengaluru Urban district. Right: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah tries his hand at the game after laying the foundation stone for the international cricket stadium on Saturday. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLAs and others look on | EXPRESS

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a Rs 943 crore international cricket stadium at Suryanagar in Anekal taluk of Bengaluru Urban district. This will be the country's second biggest cricket stadium after Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad.

At the same event, jointly organised by the Housing Department and the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB), Siddaramaiah launched the Chief Minister's 'Namma Mane' project by laying the foundation stone for Surya Shine and Surya Divine housing complexes and symbolically handed over sites to those who gave up their land for the housing project.

The CM announced that the government will soon come up with a Games Village at Anekal. "We have paved the way for the comprehensive development of this area in all aspects, including sports, tourism, job creation and economic growth," he said.

Recalling last year's stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium that caused 11 deaths during the celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden IPL victory, the CM said, "After the incident, we realised the need for an international-level cricket stadium."

The CM said the Housing Department and KHB, which were only building houses till now, are moving forward with the construction of an 80,000-seat capacity stadium as a vision of progress. "The stadium in Gujarat has a 90,000-seat capacity. This project, when completed, will be India's second-largest stadium. This will not only boost tourism but also the economy of the surrounding towns. Employment will also increase," he said.

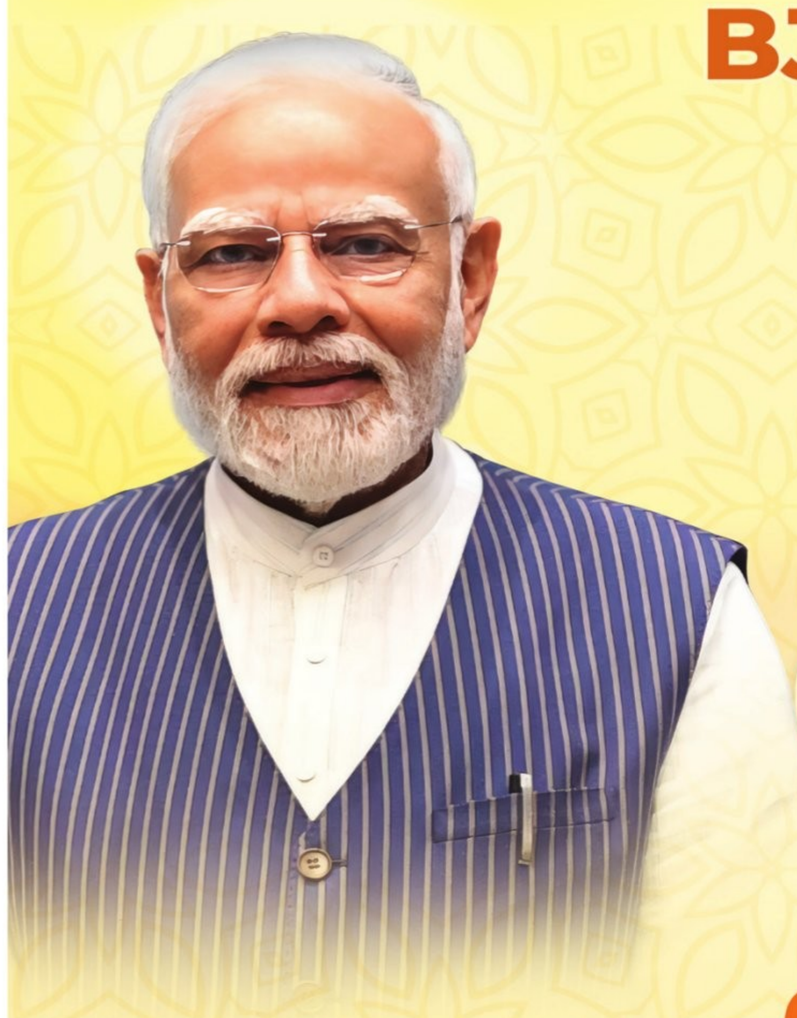
Siddaramaiah said the stadium will be fully funded by KHB, without any financial assistance from the government. "KHB is estimated to earn Rs 20,000 crore from the sale of vacant sites. Everyone wants to have a roof over their heads. Now that the price of land is increasing, KHB is constructing houses and providing sites at affordable prices to the poor and middle class," he said.

Besides approval to develop the area, administrative nod has also been given for the construction of a main road via Jigani hobli. Officials will soon start the work, he said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Anekal MLA B Shivanna and former MP DK Suresh wanted the area developed. "Farmers who gave up their land will get 50% of the sites after development," he added.

MLA Shivanna said the government, which acquired around 3,000 acres, will give Cauvery water connection to the households. "In today's programme, we gave site documents to farmers, as well as the people who got the sites through a lottery system. The farmers can now sell the land at double the price. In terms of the stadium, this is being built in an arid region."

BJP - KARNATAKA



HEARTIEST WELCOME

TO

BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SRI NITIN NABIN

The youngest President of BJP,
whose astute strategy and exceptional
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to unprecedented heights.
On his maiden visit to Karnataka after assuming
office as National President,
following the historic victories in West Bengal,
Assam and Puducherry!

WE EXTEND OUR WARM AND HEARTFELT WELCOME

24th May 2026
Sunday

SRI B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP State President

Published by: Bharatiya Janata Party, Karnataka

While shoots are permitted under certain terms in Hampi and other historical temples, it is completely banned in Veeranarayana and Trikuteshwara temples in Gadag. Those violating the rule will face criminal cases. Historians and devotees have welcomed the ban. Many used to visit the temples with cameras and equipment, wearing outfits that made devotees and tourists uncomfortable, said the temple committee

84 candidates recruited at Rozgar Mela

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN the 19th Rozgar Mela organised in Bengaluru, appointment letters were distributed to 84 candidates, including 35 recruits from the railways by Labour and Employment Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Saturday.

Shobha addressing the gathering after distributing the appointment letters said that with the newly recruited candidates, the Centre aims to make India a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, when the country marks 100 years of Independence.

She described the current youth as the 'Amrit Generation' and urged them to contribute sincerely towards nation-building during their service. She also encouraged recruits to participate in the Centre's Karmayogi Programme to enhance their skills and knowledge. Other candidates were selected for departments and institutions including the Department of Posts, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bank of Baroda and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

B'luru-Tumakuru Metro project gains momentum

DPR will be placed before the cabinet, says min G Parameshwara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government has taken a significant step forward in realising the long-awaited Madavara-Tumukuru Metro corridor, with Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Saturday announcing that a detailed project report (DPR) has strongly recommended that it is feasible.

The DPR will be placed before the state cabinet for discussion, the minister said after receiving the DPR for the proposed corridor at Vidhana Soudha in the presence of Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department Tushar Girinath and senior officials of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL).

Connecting Madavara on Bengaluru's outskirts to Tumakuru is expected to span around 50 km along the National Highway corridor. Parameshwara, who is also District in-charge Minister for Tumakuru, said the government has been working on the project for a considerable period.

"The chief minister had earlier announced that a feasibility study would be conducted. Around Rs 3.5 crore was spent for the study, which was carried out by a Hyderabad-based company. The report strongly recommended that the project is feasible," he said.

Following the feasibility study, discussions were held regarding preparation of the DPR and BMRCL floated tenders for the same, the minister said. "They prepared the DPR after detailed discussions and submitted it to the government today (Saturday)," he added.

According to Parameshwara, the government is planning to implement the project under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and the estimated cost has been pegged at around Rs 20,000 crore. He said the DPR includes detailed aspects such as station locations, alignment and corridor planning along the national highway stretch.

"The report will now be placed before the cabinet. After discussion, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be invited and tenders will be floated. The process will then begin," the minister said.

There has been considerable demand from several MLAs to extend the Metro to other suburbs and outlying areas.

"About 40% of the population in Kunigal moves to Bengaluru for jobs everyday. I would like the Metro to be extended to Kunigal, which is on the way to Tumakuru, to ensure that people stay here and not crowd Bengaluru," Kunigal MLA Dr H D Ranganath told TNIE.

Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna said, "My town is about 25 km from the nearest Metro point in Tavarekere. It would be extremely useful for the residents of Magadi and surrounding areas if the Metro is extended up to Magadi. Alternatively they can extend it to Kunigal via Magadi also."

POST-RAIN WORK

Workers carry tree branches along Ambedkar Veedhi after heavy rainsin Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

NSE, Karnataka govt collaborate to empower students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka have collaborated to launch the 'Student Skilling Program' aiming to equip the youth of Karnataka with industry-relevant skills in the securities market. The Student Skilling Program enhances their financial knowledge and employability skills in the securities market. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks a significant leap towards empowering the youth of the state of Karnataka.

The MoU was signed and exchanged by Khushboo G Chowdhary, the state secretary of Department of Higher Education, and Ankit Sharma, the chief regulatory officer of NSE, in the presencv of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for Higher Education Dr MC Sudhakar and others. Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE said "Education, financial literacy and management and investing are key pillars in building a knowledgeable, empowered and resilient state of Karnataka. Through this collaboration with the Government of Karnataka, NSE is committed to equip students with practical knowledge of the securities market, investing, while also enhancing their employability and entrepreneurial potential. This initiative reflects our vision of creating a financially aware and future-ready youth workforce."

CET workshops to be held in 65 govt colleges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a bid to help students and parents better understand the CET counselling and seat allotment process, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will organise "CET Seat Allotment Manthana" workshops from May 25 to 30 in 65 government engineering, medical and dental colleges across Karnataka.

KEA Executive Director H Prasanna said all preparations for the awareness programme have been completed. Except on May 28, two sessions will be conducted every day, from 10 am to 12 noon and from 2 pm to 4 pm.

During the sessions, officials will explain how the seat allotment process works, the correct method of entering options, choices available after seat allotment, procedures to be followed if students wish to wait for a better college seat, fee payment methods and other related formalities.

Students and parents must register and book slots through the KEA website. A separate link has been provided on the website to choose the preferred college and session timing. KEA added that several students lose seats in their preferred colleges despite securing good ranks due to mistakes made during option entry.

KEA also clarified that students preparing for the NEET examination need not personally attend the programme. However, parents can participate in the workshops and gather the required information on their own.

Govt schools to hire 51,000 guest teachers

ENS @Bengaluru

THE state government has approved a proposal for temporary appointment of 51,000 guest teachers in government primary and high schools across the state for 2026-27 to overcome the shortage of teachers.

According to an order issued by the School Education and Literacy Department on Friday, 40,000 guest teachers will be appointed in primary schools and 11,000 in high schools.

Services of guest teachers will be continued till permanent staff are appointed through direct recruitment or until the end of the academic year, whichever is earlier. The proposal was submitted by the commissioner of the School Education Department, who pointed out that schools would reopen in May and immediate recruitment was necessary.

FOCUS FEATURE

AN SMD INITIATIVE

Organise BJP - 2028

Revamp BJP - Need of the hour

The victory of BJP in West Bengal in the recently held assembly elections, instilled confidence among the BJP workers that they can once again bring the party to power in Karnataka. Keeping an eye on the next assembly elections, the senior party leaders as well as the party workers stress the need to restructure the party from the grass root level, to bring new face in the next election and also opines for the 'Ghar Vapsi' of those leaders who were either sidelined or suspended from the party. Most of these leaders have their own charisma to develop and revamp the party in the coming days. So, many senior leaders in the state BJP look up to the national leaders to bring such leaders back into the party fold besides focussing on nurturing budding young leaders of the party in the state to ensure party's growth and development.

The party that once swept Karnataka on the strength of B.S. Yediyurappa's mass appeal and organisational muscle is today a diminished version of itself, and everyone within the saffron camp knows it.

The 2023 assembly election defeat stung. But what followed — the by-election losses in Davanagere South and Bagalkot — has forced a reckoning that can no longer be deferred with platitudes about unity and cadre strength. Something is broken. The question is whether the national leadership has the appetite to fix it.

Start with the most uncomfortable truth: BJP in Karnataka is increasingly perceived as a Lingayat party — and not even the whole of that community, but a narrow corridor of dominant voices within it. That perception is politically lethal in a state as diverse as Karnataka. It drives away OBC voters, suppresses enthusiasm among Dalits and minorities, and hands the Congress a readymade narrative.

The irony is that the party built its Karnataka story on precisely the opposite promise. Leaders like K.S. Eshwarappa

— a formidable OBC voice who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Yediyurappa through the party's lean years — represented that breadth. His sidelining didn't go unnoticed. Communities have long memories.

K S Eshwarappa led the state BJP twice in his political career who stayed away from the election politics, when then national president of the party asked him not to contest the elections.

He is a hardcore leader and abides by the directions of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh. Now, he is working in the district in the name of 'Rashtra Bhaktara Balaga'.

Being a Hindutva hardliner, K S Eshwarappa has much support from seers of various mutts of different communities, besides, dares to speak and defend about Hinduism and Hindutva. BJP that emphasises on this issue has to bring back such Hindutva hardliners including the former union minister Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Ananthkumar Hegde and Pratap Simha.

Sitting MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal of Vijayapura says what the party wants in his combative style — the man carries the Panchamasali Lingayat community in north Karnataka the way few leaders can. Suspending him didn't silence him. It simply moved the friction outside the tent, where it does the party far more damage. Similarly, Pratap Simha's considerable standing in the Mysuru region remains an underutilised asset — loyalty of that quality deserves better than benign neglect.

At the district level, the picture is equally troubling. Second-rung leaders — the people who actually do the groundwork, who know ward-by-ward which booth needs attention — have been drifting. Many were sidelined before or after 2023. Some defected. Others simply disengaged. A party without its middle layer is a party that can't organise, and a party that can't organise cannot win.

What Karnataka BJP needs is a Ghar Vapsi — not the symbolic kind, but a structured, politically intelligent reconciliation. Bring back estranged leaders with defined roles. Widen the coalition of communities the party actively champions. And critically, invest in a younger face for the organisation — someone who can carry the BJP's ideological conviction while projecting a clean, credible image to a state that has grown cynical.

Time has come for the national leadership of the party to give novelty, confidence and to nurture leaders at all the levels-taluk, district and state with the sole objective to see the state BJP to assume power in Karnataka.

Senior advocate Khaja Moizuddin (63) was killed after a speeding car rammed him near his residence in Shanthinagar, Hyderabad, under the Nampally police station limits on Saturday morning. Moizuddin had come out to his car and was preparing to leave for a swimming pool when an unidentified vehicle struck him at high speed

KERALA BRACES FOR MONSOON, YELLOW ALERT ISSUED FOR DISTRICTS

IMD says conditions remain favourable for monsoon to advance over the next three or four days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

KERALA is bracing for an early onset of Southwest Monsoon as the weather system advanced further over the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal on Saturday, bringing widespread rainfall activity across the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said conditions remain favourable for the monsoon to advance into more parts of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal over the next three to four days.

Yellow alerts have already been issued for districts across the state till May 27. MET director Neetha K Gopal said the next three to four days would be crucial for the monsoon onset over the state. "We are seeing conditions evolving as we had expected for the monsoon onset. An official statement is likely to be issued soon. As per the current assessment, the situation remains favourable for the arrival of the monsoon," she said. She said that Kerala is likely to witness continuing rainfall activity in the coming days, with some districts expected to receive yellow-alert level rainfall.

"There are no major additional weather systems currently influencing the region. Compared to last year, the wind strength ahead of monsoon onset is relatively weaker. So at present we are only expecting moderate rainfall activity," she said. "The situation could still evolve after the official onset of the monsoon, as rainfall intensity and weather patterns often undergo changes during the early phase of the season," she added.

A man braves the downpour, which is becoming more frequent as the monsoon season approaches, in Kadamakuddy, Kochi, on Saturday | EXPRESS

Heat wave: Parts of Odisha cross 45°C mark

Bhubaneswar: As it reels under unforgiving weather conditions, a latest report revealed that Odisha emerged as one among the 10 states with the most compound hot-humid days between 2015 and 2024. A compound hot-humid day is a weather phenomenon where extreme heat and high atmospheric moisture occur simultaneously. In these states, high heat is increasingly overlapping with sufficient humidity to create stressful conditions. Bhubaneswar has been the clear example. In the capital, mornings have recorded uncomfortably high temperature, with the day exacerbated by relentless heat wave conditions. Odisha is currently experiencing blistering weather conditions, with temperatures consistently breaching the 45 degrees C mark in few parts of the state. On Saturday, heat wave gripped five places while Jharsuguda emerged as the hottest place in the state again at 45.2 degrees C. Boudh, Sambalpur, Titlagarh and Hirakud recorded 45 degrees C each. The temperature in Sambalpur was above normal by 3.2 degrees C. So far, about 18 suspected sunstroke deaths have been reported in the state. ENS

FESTIVE TRADE

Goats put up for sale ahead of Bakrid at the cattle market near Reddiarpatti in Alagiapandiapuram, Tirunelveli, in Tamil Nadu on Saturday | V KARTHIKALAGU

Lorry driver flees spot after crash with SUV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IMMEDIATELY after the accident, the lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and fled from the spot, the SP said. The deceased have been identified as Tolusab (27) – the SUV driver, Hussain (48), Maiboob (45), Rasulbee (42) and Fatima (38). All of them hailed from Ingalagi village of Chittapur taluk and were returning from Yadgir after admitting one of their relatives, who had suffered a stroke, at a hospital.

Priyank mourns death

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, who is Kalaburagi district incharge minister and MLA from Chittapur, posted on X that he had spoken to the Kalaburagi SP and the district administration to provide necessary assistance to the families of the deceased.

2 held for kidnap, murder of 10-yr-old girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

A day after a 10-year-old girl was found dead near a lake at Kannampalayam in Coimbatore, the Sulur police on Saturday arrested two persons on charges of abduction, rape, and murder after medical examination confirmed sexual assault of the child.

According to police, the main accused, K Karthi (33) of Nagapattinam, had lured the girl, sexually assaulted her and murdered her at a coconut grove near the Kannampalayam lake. The prime suspect, a daily-wage labourer residing on the outskirts of Coimbatore, suffered fractures to his right hand and leg when he allegedly attempted to flee the police on Saturday. He is undergoing treatment at Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital. The second accused, R Mohan (30) of Bharathipuram in Pallapalayam, had allegedly assisted Karthi in executing the crime. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

Police inspect the spot where a 10-year-old girl's body was found at Pallapalayam in Coimbatore on Saturday | EXPRESS

The girl, a Class 5 student of a government school, went missing while playing near her residence around 5 pm on Thursday. Her parents, after failing to trace her, lodged a complaint with the Sulur police around 8.30 pm the same day. Subsequently, five teams were formed to trace the girl, and her body was found near the lake on Friday evening.

Terming the incident "inhuman and unforgivable", Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay assured stringent action against those responsible and instructed the police to file the chargesheet without delay. The police had initially registered a missing person case, but later altered it to murder and abduction. Pocso and rape charges were invoked after the doctors at the Government Medical College and ESI Hospital confirmed evidence of sexual assault after postmortem examination.

Addressing the media on Saturday, RV Ramya Bharathi, IG (West Zone), said that Karthi was hiding on the first floor of an apartment at Kannampalayam when the special team cornered him. "Karthi confessed to the crime and said he had lured the child, sexually assaulted her, and murdered her in a coconut grove near Kannampalayam," she said.

GAGANYAAN'S G-1 MISSION TO LAUNCH IN 3-4 MONTHS

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE first satellite launch for the Gaganyaan mission, the G-1 (half-humanoid) mission is all ready to take off in the next 3-4 months."The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) got clearances for G-1 from the National Review Committee in early May, 2026. The half-huanoid- G-1-mission is expected to launch in the coming 3-4months, against the previous claims made," sources in ISRO told *TNSE*.

Ideally campaign activities for any mission start 60 days before the launch date of the satellite. In case of the Gaganyaan, the campaign will start 90 days ahead of the scheduled mission. This is because Gaganyaan is a complex human-rated mission and everything is being built with latest state of the act technology indigenously. Three unmanned missions (G-1, G-2 and G-3) are slated before the first humanoid mission.

"However, in case of the G-1 mission the launch activities were announced in December 2024, targeting a launch in March 2025. But then none of the systems were ready. This hasty announcement misguided the Ministry of Space, the country and the international space fraternity. It also put the entire operation at risk," an official said.

Sources explained, when the internal independent committee reviewed the works in January-February 2025, they found that no systems were ready and they decided that the launch activities cannot take place. The developmental activities were accelerated only from March 2025. In January 2025, no national or expert committee review and certification was obtained for the G-1 mission.

Four step errors were noted- launch activity, launch target, review not up to the mark and activity acceleration. Two months were further wasted in understanding what is required to be done on ground. Top in this list included new version systems for S-200, L-110 and C-32 stages.

This is apart from the latest aerodynamics system, parachute system, thermal protection, pyro-systems, propulsion, avionics, software, structural design and qualification, recovery system, life support and launch vehicle.

ISRO said new reliable robust designs and sub-systems have been used. Third party inspection was done before presenting the final file to the national review committee.

Another official said, "Protocols were not followed back then. The mismatch in the system could have had a cascading effect on India's international space relations. Now since the last one year things have geared up and final simulation testings are being done in Bengaluru and Trivandrum."

Tusker Sivalakshmi Ayyappan goes on a rampage in residential areas in Thrissur city on Saturday | EXPRESS

After parade, tusker runs amok in Thrissur, enters houses, damages cars

GOPIKA VARRIER @Thrissur

THRISSUR residents on Saturday witnessed a shocking sight of a captive elephant charging at vehicles and morning walkers as the tusker — identified as Shivam Lakshmi Ayyappan — ran amok. Though the residents are used to the sight of caparisoned elephants roaming around the city for parades, the whole episode of a tusker on rampage inside the crowded city, entering houses and wreaking havoc — that too on a fine morning, was something out of the blue.

It was around 9am. Tusker Shivam Lakshmi Ayyappan had participated in the elephant parade as a part of siveli at Thiruvambady Sree Krishna temple. The tusker was then taken to Thekkinkadu Maidan after visiting the Paramekkavu temple. While clicking photographs of the tusker in front of East Gopuram of Sree Vadakkumnatha Temple, the elephant without any provocation turned violent and ran away with its mahout on top. The jumbo then proceeded to Paramekkavu and then to Chembukkav. On the way, the tusker attacked a car and an autorickshaw, toppling them.

However, no one was injured as people managed to escape from a direct attack from the violent elephant. By around 9.30am, the elephant entered the pocket roads of Gandhi Nagar residential area and forayed into house compounds. The tusker was on a rampage, destroying compound walls and asbestos sheets of the houses here.

"I was about to go out to buy some essential items in the morning. When I opened the gate, what I saw was an elephant walking straight, at high speed passing through the road in front of my house. I was shocked and numb for a minute. People started screaming and I ran inside in fear," said a woman residing in Gandhi Nagar.

As officials tried hard to keep the situation under control, for almost an hour, the tusker kept people in Thrissur city on tenterhooks. An elephant squad arrived at the spot and managed to subdue the tusker. Amid the chaos, the jumbo suffered wounds on its forehead and also behind its ears.

"It is still unknown what made the tusker angry. There were reports that a stray dog barked at it and suddenly it went violent. Another said the mahout used the ankush against the elephant to make it pose for the photographs," said V K. Venkitachalam, chairman of heritage animal task force, an NGO working for the welfare of elephants.

He has filed a complaint with the forest department seeking a detailed probe into the whole incident.

Sangeetha (inset) was inside her car when the tusker toppled it | EXPRESS

'THOUGHT I WOULD DIE, LUCKY TO HAVE ESCAPED'

Thrissur: On Saturday morning, Sangeetha was driving to work when suddenly she heard people screaming about an elephant coming her way. In an instant, she felt the force of the vehicle being toppled by the tusker. Sangeetha is still struggling to believe what she experienced. "I heard people screaming about a violent jumbo headed that way. I tensed up and literally froze. By the time I could react, the jumbo had made its way to me, and was stabbing at the driver window with its tusks. Locals helped me out of the car that was tipped over by the jumbo," Sangeetha told TNIE. "For a moment I thought I would die," she said. "I feel lucky to have escaped with my life."

Notification eliminates gender bias

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SEMI-SKILLED workers will receive Rs 25,714 and unskilled workers Rs 23,376 per month.

In Zone-3 areas, which cover rural and smaller towns, the minimum wage for unskilled workers has been fixed at Rs 19,319 per month, while highly skilled workers will receive Rs 25,714.

The notification also prescribes separate wage structures for workers engaged in sanitation and scavenging work, as well as employees in thermal, hydro, solar and wind power generation units. Workers involved in mechanised sanitation work in Bengaluru areas have been granted wages exceeding Rs 25,700 per month.

The notification additionally expands the list of scheduled employment by including sectors such as non-teaching staff in private schools and colleges, e-commerce and courier services, religious institutions, amusement parks, mobile tower maintenance, LPG distribution units, M-sand units, and computer and cyber centres.

The government has also mandated equal wages for men, women, transgender persons and persons with disabilities performing similar work. Workers employed on overtime or weekly holidays will be entitled to double wages.

The notification states that the Variable Dearness Allowance will be revised annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Employers have been directed to pay wages either directly into workers' bank accounts or through authorised payment systems. Daily wage calculations will be based on 26 working days per month, with provisions for paid weekly holidays.

EXPRESS READ

Six-year-old mauled by stray dogs, critical

Berhampur (Odisha): A six-year-old boy sustained critical injuries after being attacked by a pack of stray dogs at Mahanala village under Patapur police limits of Ganjam district on Saturday. The child Arush Kumar Gouda, a Class I student, was playing outside his house when five to seven dogs suddenly pounced on him. The dogs kept mauling the boy until locals rushed to the spot and rescued him. Eyewitnesses said the attack was so severe that the child sustained injuries on his face and skull. He was initially taken to the Digapahandi community health centre (CHC) and later shifted to MKCG MCH in Berhampur. Subsequently, the eight-year-old was referred to a hospital in Bhubaneswar for specialised treatment. His condition is stated to be critical. ENS

Teen goes missing in sea after rescuing bro

Chennai: A 16-year-old boy went missing after strong waves swept him away after he rescued his younger brother from drowning in the sea off Marina beach on Friday evening. According to the police, Sudharsan and his younger brother Kamalesh (15) were bathing in the sea when Kamalesh was caught in strong currents. Upon noticing this, Sudharsan rushed to rescue his brother and managed to bring him safely ashore. However, waves dragged Sudharsan into the sea, and he went missing. The family members searched for the teenager but could not find him and later alerted the Marina police. Fire and rescue services, along with the coast guard, launched a search operation. ENS

Telugu techies see red in US green card changes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

A recent policy memorandum issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), proposing tighter scrutiny of adjustment of status applications for certain foreign nationals seeking permanent residency, has triggered concern among Telugu professionals working in the American technology sector. Many fear the move could force more applicants into consular processing in India, exposing them to visa delays and travel-related uncertainties.

Indian professionals already face some of the longest green card waiting periods in the US immigration system because of country-wise caps on employment-based visas.

Aganitha AI founder Ramarao Kanneganti said the latest policy change adds another layer of uncertainty to an already complex immigration process for Indian professionals.

"Many Indian students first arrive in the United States on F-1 visas, move to temporary work authorisation through Optional Practical Training (OPT), and then attempt to secure an H-1B visa through a lottery system. Only after that do employers sponsor them for permanent residency," he explained.

"Even after employers file immigrant petitions, Indian applicants often spend many years waiting because of country-wise caps and visa backlogs. During this period, people build entire lives in America — their careers, homes and children's education become tied to immigration paperwork and continued employment," he said.

Cambodia cyber slavery: Another key suspect held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

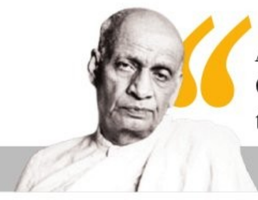
THE Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Wing has secured another key suspect allegedly linked to an international cyber slavery and human trafficking network that trafficked Indian nationals to cyber scam compounds operating in Cambodia.

The suspect has been identified as S Syed Hassain (37) of Wallajah in Vellore district. The investigators said he acted as a local facilitator and intermediary by recruiting victims from Tamil Nadu with promises of lucrative overseas jobs.

According to the Cyber Crime Wing, Hassain was allegedly in regular contact with overseas handlers and coordinated the movement of victims to Cambodia through Malaysia and Thailand. In one instance, he allegedly arranged the travel of a victim from Tirupathur district by sharing flight tickets, coordinating WhatsApp and video calls with recruiters, accompanying the victim to Chennai airport, and assisting onward travel arrangements.

The police said the suspect also received commissions through bank transfers and digital payment platforms for facilitating recruitment and travel. The victim was later trafficked to a cyber scam compound in Cambodia where Indian nationals were allegedly forced to engage in online financial fraud and cyber scam activities under coercive conditions amounting to "cyber slavery".

The Cyber Crime Wing said investigation is under way to identify more victims and recruitment agents.



A war based on *satyagraha* is always of two kinds. One is the war we wage against injustice and the other we fight against our own weaknesses

Sardar Patel

WAR AS PROFITABLE STATECRAFT AND ELUSIVE PEACE

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*

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WAR is peace," wrote George Orwell in *1984*, imagining a world where words are hollowed out, logic is perverted and conflict concocted to sustain domination. The 1949 opus is defining global affairs in 2026. The era of giant statesmen is consigned to history, replaced by intellectual pygmies who now write the rules of the game. Orwell's dystopia appears eerily real, emerging as the operating system of geopolitics.

The world is lurching through a disorder that profits the powerful and vaporises the vulnerable. At the epicentre of this modern construct is US President Donald J Trump, who famously promised to end the war in Ukraine in a day. That promise is now 487 days overdue. His presidency, betting on grandstanding to deliver, has wagered on misplaced notions of swift victories.

The Trump playbook has alienated allies and friends like India and enriched adversaries like China and Russia. Liberation Day tariffs targeted Canada, Mexico, India and the EU, while China cocked a snook at Trump. The US now has to refund $166 billion collected as tariffs—and among the first in the queue is FedEx. Meanwhile, the total US debt soared to $39 trillion. Yet, Trump remains undeterred: a new 10 percent tariff is under litigation, while his team is weaponising provisions to reset the tariff regime.

This global instability is not unfolding in a vacuum. West Asia burns and Ukraine simmers because war-games are shaped by domestic political calculations—in Washington, Tel Aviv, Moscow and Beijing. The decision to wage war or pursue peace is increasingly dictated by internal political calculus. The human and economic costs of these gridlocked conflicts have triggered global anxiety.

Trump loves the word 'obliteration'. After many Trumpian obliterations, Iran is still in the fight. The objective of the peace talks is keeping open the Strait of Hormuz, which was open before the war. What's more, Iran and Oman may partner to charge tolls on ships. For all the talk of regime change, the best Team Trump could do was to replace an older Ayatollah with a younger Ayatollah.

It is an accepted hypothesis that the attack on Iran was fertilised during a February 23 phone call between Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. It is no mystery that US foreign policy is largely influenced by domestic politics, which depends on campaign financing—and pro-Israel outfits such as AIPAC are among the leading donors for presidential and congressional polls.

The February 28 attack on Iran was Trump's nod to the Israeli lobby's quest. The blame-game, the statements of officials, the resignations of Joe Kent and Tulsi Gabbard spell out the saga. For Netanyahu, who is dependent on the Ben Gvir brand of politics for survival, the war is simply an instrument of postponing the day of reckoning—remember, Trump advocated a pardon when he visited Israel. Netanyahu faces his reckoning, rather ironically, in the Fall season.

The West Asia conflict also intersects with the dollar's hegemony. Since the 1974 US-Saudi arrangement, Washington has sought to preserve the dollar's dominance by shaping the architecture of oil trade. Iran, one of the world's largest hydrocarbon producers, has long been central to this strategy. The trajectory of US intervention in Venezuela—from narcotics enforcement to oil politics—is instructive. Recently, it was US Secretary of State Marco Rubio—not Venezuela's leadership—who spoke of an oil deal with India. The indictment of Raul Castro suggests Washington may be contemplating a "Maduro model" approach to Cuba, likely to resonate with Cuban American voters.

It doesn't quite matter to Trump—or thus far, to his MAGA base—that while Trump's marketing pitch is in superlatives, the outcomes are not. Trump has rained harsh words on Russia and China, but the two are beneficiaries of Trump's wars. The Iran conflict has resulted in the US burning through its stockpiles, raising fears in Ukraine and Taiwan. This has eased pressure on Russia and emboldened China to warn the US over arms supplies to Taiwan, which are on pause.

The war has pushed up crude prices, which affect fuel prices in the US. To alleviate the effect, the Trump administration lifted sanctions on Iranian oil and extended exemptions on Russian oil for another 30 days. Russian oil, once steeply discounted, is now priced $100 a barrel, while Iranian oil is at $100 and $103 for light and heavy crude. China, the biggest consumer which pays for Russian and Iranian oil in yuans, is a big beneficiary.

This week, Trump exhibited the tremendous clout he enjoys among Republican voters as he exacted revenge on dissidents at primaries and showed he retains 80 percent support within the party. That said, the level is sliding. The killings of children in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran have affected youth support for DJT, which has slid from 48 percent to the low 30s. Not one, but four recent polls find Trump's ratings sinking—thanks to rising gasoline prices and fewer jobs for the Class of 2026. Angry members of the Republican Party are blocking Trump's Bills as they worry the Fall season could unseat them.

Wars have no winners. Ceasefires mock the dead. There is no guarantee when the wars raging now will end. Even if they do end this week, the costs will be paid for years—just in West Asia, restoration of oil output could take 18 months and gas over four years. The casting of domestic politics as geopolitics and the obsession for political domination through wars have pushed the world to the edge of a political and economic catastrophe.

THE POLITICS OF AN ECONOMIC IMPASSE

OPINION

SANJAYA BARU

Former newspaper editor and writer whose latest book is *Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India*

UPON his stunning victory 12 years ago, Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of party faithful and appealed to them that they give him "10 years to transform" the country. As we mark the twelfth anniversary of the Modi government, it is now clear that he has succeeded in 'transforming' India politically but has failed to do so economically. It is worth considering whether the political transformation that has been achieved is among the reasons for the failure on the economic front.

The emerging consensus among political and policy analysts across the country is that Modi has not been able to translate his political success into economic performance. Some, like economist Surjit Bhalla, blame the 'deep state' or the embedded bureaucracy for this. Indeed, even many close to and loyal to the Prime Minister often articulate this view, that the real impediment to better performance is the 'rust in the steel frame'.

Some hold the BJP's essentially inward-oriented, 'swadeshi' thinking on trade policy and the confusion created by multiple interpretations of Atmanirbharata and Make in India responsible. Some castigate Modi's own 'instruments', his loyal ministers, for the inadequacies of the leader. During the Congress era, inter-ministerial policy and personality differences would be spoken of openly and reported in the media. Differences between senior ministers like Pranab Mukherjee and P Chidambaram were open secrets. Such differences and rivalries exist in Modi's council of ministers too, and some in the media are privy to them. But these are almost never reported.

My friend Parakala Prabhakar, a distinguished political economist, has for long held a very different view on the governance challenges faced by the Modi government. Be it the manner of announcement and execution of demonetisation, or the imposition of overnight lockdown due to Covid, or actions on issues like farm and land laws, foreign investment policy and so on. Parakala blames it all on managerial 'incompetence' at the political, not merely bureaucratic, level.

Perhaps Peter's Principle—the celebrated management theory that "employees are continually promoted based on their success in previous roles until they reach a position where they are no longer competent" —also applies to politicians and senior ministers.

SOURAV ROY

Moreover, it is one thing to win elections, quite another to steer the national economy, national security and foreign policy—the primary responsibilities of the Prime Minister—over a long period of time. Even Jawaharlal Nehru, who had a distinguished decade in office as Prime Minister from 1947 to 1957, began erring after that. The question may well be asked if Modi has outlived his welcome and diminishing returns have set in on the administrative and economic fronts, even as he continues to deliver on the political front.

Reflecting on that 2014 request of the PM, that he be given a decade for 'transforming' India, it seems clear now that his focus was mainly on the Indian republic's transformation into a Hindu majority polity. On that objective he has largely succeeded, with southern India still outside the grip of Hindutva. The mixing of religious faith and prejudice into public life and politics has generated social and political tensions that are depleting the so-called 'animal spirits of enterprise'.

A growing concern among business leaders, at home and overseas, about the direction of Indian politics is making them risk-averse as investors. An important reason for private investment not picking up, for the flight of capital and the tapering down of foreign direct investment may well be the wider political environment.

Economists often ignore the role of political management in influencing business decisions. Confidence in a government's ability to deal with emergent political and security challenges, at home and overseas, reassures investors. It contributes to positive expectations and encourages risk-taking by investors. Any concern about a political leadership's competence or determination to deal with such challenges contributes to negative expectations and risk aversion.

Consider two examples. It is not often recognised by economists and public policy analysts that a key trigger for the 1990-91 balance of payments crisis episode was the judgement of a variety of economic actors that the government of the day would not be able to handle the challenges at hand. It was the inability of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Chandrashekhar governments to act decisively on the fiscal and external front in 1990 that led to a loss of confidence in the economy and the rapid descent into the crisis of 1991. It was then the decisive actions of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao that restored investor confidence and stabilised the economy.

By contrast, in 2004 the defeat of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and the coming into office of a Congress-led coalition supported by communist parties triggered instability in the markets and unease among investors. The reassurance provided very quickly by the newly elected Prime Minister Manmohan Singh set at rest all such worries. In both instances, the quality of political leadership made all the difference to investor sentiment.

We are in a similar situation today. In 1991 and 2004, both business leaders and the media articulated their views openly and played their part in ensuring political action that helped restore investor confidence. Today, a largely timid media and a highly risk-averse and fearful business class are no longer exerting pressure on the political leadership to act in a reassuring manner.

All good news is celebrated in an exaggerated manner and all bad news is buried. Thus, when India was seen as being on the threshold of becoming the world's third largest economy, there was much song and dance about it. Today, when it has slipped to the sixth position, few ask why. In 2017, Prime Minister Modi declared that the country's national income would be $5 trillion by 2020. Very quickly, the goal was shifted to 2022, and then to 2025, and then forgotten. In 2026, the economy is just over $4 trillion.

Indian economy's long-term average annual rate of growth from 1990 to 2025 is estimated to be around 6 percent. During 2000-12, the average growth rate was over 7 percent. For India to be regarded as a developed economy by 2047, the goal of Viksit Bharat, the average annual growth over the next two decades will have to be around 8 percent. The question to ask today is what was done over the past decade that the acceleration in growth experienced during 1990-2010 has not been sustained over the past decade.

(Views are personal)

TURNING CAR POOLS INTO CAB TRAINS

REVERSE SWING

MADHAVAN NARAYANAN

Senior journalist

Follow him on X @madversity

WHILE petrol prices shoot up and a heatwave builds up, there's a one-liner on social media that throws a third dimension to commuting in the National Capital Region—half of Delhi works in Gurugram and half of Gurugram works in Delhi, and they are all stuck on NH48.

The highway that connects the capital with its affluent satellite is perpetually jammed. But a casual look will show that most of the cars are driven by middle-aged men flaunting their new affluence with no other passenger in sight. The stories in Mumbai, Chennai or Bengaluru are not much different. Choked roads do not go well with aspirational lifestyles, but there's little people do about it.

It appears all the more ironic given the ongoing oil shock. It is good to see ministers combining photoshoot moments aboard metro carriages with appeals to increase car-pooling so that we can save valuable dollars in oil imports. But this needs a reality check.

A hard look at car-pooling in India shows we have barely scratched the surface. More importantly, faced with issues that make the commonsensical idea of sharing car rides to save on fuel costs and, hopefully, commuting time is not as loaded with common sense as it would seem at first.

We need to reverse-swing our thoughts to humbler modes of transport like auto-rickshaws and the increasingly popular e-rickshaws to get a hang of what we can do about it. But before that, a few thoughts on India's automobile culture may be in order.

It is my firm belief that three things drive India's car boom: cheap loans, the image of a car as a status symbol and its position as a middle-class dream that dates back to the days when incomes were low and roads were barren. A lot has changed since, but a cultural hangover remains.

Before I bought my first car, I once had a neighbour down the street in Bengaluru asking if he could park his fancy Ford in my apartment parking space, but he could not afford to pay a rent for it. Another anecdote involves a Delhi colleague who told me about a shopper at a BMW showroom asking if there was a CNG engine option available so he could save on the fuel.

Cars are more of an object of vanity in urban India, even if that involves the inconvenience of getting stuck in traffic jams and paying more for the fuel.

I once worked for an environment-conscious editor who talked the company's CEO into taking a metro ride one day—and found the boss squirming through what otherwise was a comfortable journey that saved time and cost. Indian CEOs are not supposed to take the metro, though stinking-rich Wall Street traders in New York are known to. Quo vadis, dear car-pooler?

There is a flip side to this. Car pool apps like BlaBlaCar and QuickRide are trying to solve the commuter's problem with peer-to-peer sharing. Think of them like an Uber for private riders. But quick research reveals they have had only "segmented success". We may well ask in startup lingo: where's the scale in car-pooling?

Despite years of effort and the recent availability of apps, car-pooling has not taken off in India. Maybe the idea of cab trains—shared shuttle rides between fixed points—is better suited for our congested metros

All of that brought back memories of Kolkata, where I took my first Indian metro ride in 1991, preceded by my first shared autorickshaw ride to the metro station. With one auto leaving every minute in a point-to-point journey, from residential areas to the metro hub, the turnover efficiency was high.

E-rickshaws in Delhi's suburbs like Noida, and even tempo vans in passenger mode, do pretty much the same thing. Commuters are familiar with the usual routes, the points where boarding is likely. These pick-up points are like bus stops, but unlike bulky buses that take time and space to move, e-ricks and shared autos are available at a high frequency, with a predictability of service that bolsters confidence in that system.

Mumbai's Churchgate station already does car-pooling without the fuss. People buzz to and from Nariman Point from the station in black-and-yellow taxis with a not a word exchanged between the cabbie and the passengers. The rates are fixed, the route is known and the efficiency is high.

Now picture a scenario in Delhi, Bengaluru or Gurugram or wherever where such a model can be adopted. The way to do it is to make cars behave like the humble rickshaws that provide valuable last-mile services.

The authorities should come up with a plan to help car pools become 'cab trains' running between set pick-up and drop points. You can number them like buses, colour-code them and run them on predictable routes with clear timetables at fixed rates. Throw in rush-hour premiums or happy-hour discounts. Such options are quite common in inter-city rides. It is time it becomes common within metro regions.

Metro trains and e-ricks are doing it. What we need is to make the surfeit of cars blocking highways and city roads to turn into cab-train services that offer the triple play of predictability, frequency and cost efficiency that collectively spell convenience. Perhaps we need to design government tenders to launch branded point-to-point cab services and incentivise them with higher depreciation rates and tax-free status.

Only a scale-first approach to car-pooling can make sense beyond the lip service it is often given. For CXOs still worried about their status, we might launch shared limousines—with electric engines and uniformed chauffeurs.

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER

What a time we have had. Don't ask me the reasons I'm leaving. There is no reason, but deep inside I know it's my time. Nothing is eternal. If it was, I would be here. Eternal will be the feeling, the people, the memories, the love I have for my Manchester City.

Pep Guardiola, announcing he is leaving as manager after a decade during which he won 20 trophies with the team

The Bar Council of India is aware that around 35-40 percent of those seen in court complexes wearing black coats and bands are fake.

Manan Kumar Mishra, BCI chairman, after about two-fifths of lawyers did not fill up the council's verification forms

Making yourself feel powerful by sending special forces to arrest a 94-year-old former leader of an island nation impoverished by US sanctions doesn't exactly suggest a strong, self-confident and ascendant superpower.

Ben Rhodes, former Deputy National Security Advisor of the US, on Cuba

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Fair justice

Ref: *Personal liberty as a constitutional imperative* (May 23). A really interesting, readable write-up on a timely subject. A humanitarian approach is more desirable while granting bails. We have seen deaths following refusal of bail pleas that had been made on health grounds. Prolonged incarceration without trial itself is a punishment denying the constitutional right to speedy trial. The irony is that prolonged bail is granted to politicians while their trials go on at a snail's pace. What is required is immunity from influence rather than harsh laws.

Ramalingeswara Rao, email

NEET solution

Ref: *Centre aims for 100% error-free retest* (May 23). Along with NEET, all state governments may consider conducting separate entrance tests like Tamil Nadu's TANCET. The latter should be for students from the state. Half the government medical seats may be filled by NEET and the other half from TANCET-like tests. Like Tamil Nadu, there can be 7.5 percent or a similar reservation for students from government schools. So students will have the option of two tests. The basic idea is that only the deserving should study such courses, not those who get in by paying huge 'capitation fees'.

S R Dhravid, Chennai

Youth awareness

Ref: *Police caution public over viral human chain call* (May 22). Once can now say that every cockroach has its day. An imaginary digital-based party named after it recently gained millions of followers. Young people rallied behind its satirical agenda against politicians, the judiciary and social evils. Social cause was highlighted under the wraps of humour. It shows that the country's youth are keeping abreast of contemporary issues and are ready to express their bold views if a proper channel is available. Though such an online moment tends to be short-lived, it can spread awareness about real issues. One cannot wish away the influence of a youth movement, however temporary it may be.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Expert ethics

Ref: *CBI arrests Pune-based lecturer for allegedly sharing physics paper* (May 22). It is evident that the question paper leak has happened through experts or those associated with the exam process. It shows a lack of self-discipline or ethics for the concerned persons. A thorough check of the activities of all so-called experts at coaching institutes needs to be made to ensure a fool-proof conduct of competitive exams. There should be a mechanism for checking the activities of NEET-UG coaching institutes in all the states and Union territories.

R Sridharan, Pollachi

Chip challenge

Ref: *ISM 2.0 may get higher outlay than initial $10 billion* (May 20). It is a good sign that India's semiconductor push is on the threshold of a progressive step that creates research talent and an investment system for not just production, but to promote indigenous technology and intellectual property too. This is a big boost towards self-reliance in science and technology. It is not an exaggeration that what India's entrepreneurs and workforce choose to do with a chip could well shape the country's destiny. They are the invisible engines of the modern world as a result of recent innovations in circuitry, design and packaging. The industry seems to be one of the best options for the young today.

M Chandrasekhar, Kadapa

Oil spillage

Ref: *IOCL pipeline burst causes petrol spill in Paradip port* (May 23). It's quite disturbing to know about the latest pipeline leakage in Paradip. There could not have been a more unfortunate time for this to happen. Apart from the environmental pollution it causes, the incident is especially disquieting when there's a crude oil crisis due to the West Asia war. The mishap indicates negligence of officials. We must learn from this and prevent any more mishaps of the kind.

Simran Poniya, Koraput

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Does Uttar Pradesh have a Home Ministry, or has it been handed over to contractors? There's something in it that has a stake.

Nilanjan Das @NilanjanDasAITC
Question remains- why do Bengalis have to pay ₹10 extra on every litre for petrol & diesel? When will this injustice end?

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Heartiest congratulations to all the newly appointed youth who are about to become partners in nation-building

Rubio pushes US energy pivot to India

Bats for steady ties strained by tariffs and Delhi's unease over Washington's engagement with both Pak, China

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio used his first visit to India to push energy cooperation and steady a relationship strained by tariffs, shifting regional alignments and growing Indian unease over Washington's engagement with both Pakistan and China.

Rubio's talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi came at a crucial geopolitical moment, with the Iran conflict disrupting global energy markets, uncertainty persisting over US trade policy, and New Delhi closely watching Washington's recalibration of ties with Pakistan and China.

A US State Department readout of the meeting highlighted the energy focus of the visit, saying, "The Secretary emphasised that the United States will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that US energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply."

The remarks reflected Washington's attempt to position itself as a reliable energy partner for India at a time when volatility in the Gulf and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz have renewed concerns over energy security. The Iran conflict has also complicated US efforts to reduce India's dependence on discounted Russian crude, which became a major irritant in ties under the Trump administration. Ahead of the visit, Rubio made clear that energy exports would be central to the American pitch.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visit Mother House, the headquarters of St Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata | PTI

"Well, we want to sell them as much energy as they'll buy," Rubio told reporters before arriving in India. "We want to be able to do more. We were already in talks with them to do more. We want them to be a bigger part of their portfolio." He also pointed to "opportunities with Venezuelan oil", signalling Washington's broader effort to reshape India's energy basket amid growing geopolitical uncertainty.

The outreach comes as the Trump administration attempts to repair damage caused by steep tariffs imposed on Indian goods last year.

India has also grown increasingly wary of America's outreach to Pakistan, and Trump's recent visit to Beijing, further amplifying concerns in New Delhi about the direction of US strategy in Asia.

Following his meeting with Modi, Rubio described India as a "cornerstone" of America's Indo-Pacific approach and said the two countries were likely to make "even more exciting and new announcements".

'Some progress on Iran talks, nuke red lines key'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said talks with Iran had made "some progress" but reiterated Washington's hardline position that Tehran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons, as President Donald Trump convened his senior national security team amid rising speculation over potential military escalation.

"There's been some progress made... Even as I speak to you, there's some work being done," Rubio said. "This issue needs to be solved, as the President said, one way or the other. Iran can never have nuclear weapons." He said that Washington's conditions extended to specific nuclear constraints and regional security concerns. "The straits need to be opened without tolls. They need to turn over their highly enriched uranium... we need to address the issue of enrichment," Rubio said, outlining the administration's firm negotiating posture.

While reiterating pressure on Tehran, Rubio also said that diplomacy remained the preferred path. "The President's preference is always to solve problems such as these through a negotiated diplomatic solution. That's what we're working on right now... We hope it's done through the diplomatic route," he added.

The remarks came as Trump held a White House meeting with Vice President J D Vance, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, CIA Director John Ratcliffe and other officials to assess options on Iran, including possible strikes if diplomacy collapses. According to Axios, internal discussions remain fluid, with negotiations described as "agonising" and "going back and forth every day".

The diplomatic track has also drawn in regional actors, with Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir visiting Tehran alongside a Qatari delegation.

GIORGIA MELONI

MELODI MOMENT AND 'PARISHRAM HI SAFALTA'

JAYANTH JACOB

MANDAR PARDIKAR

GIORGIA Meloni has always understood the theatre of politics. She knows when to pause, when to sharpen a slogan, and when to let an image do the work. In Rome this week, standing beside PM Narendra Modi beneath the chandeliers of Palazzo Chigi, Italy's leader reached not for the familiar cadences of European diplomacy but for a Hindi proverb. "Parishram hi safalta ki kunji hai," she said carefully, savouring the unfamiliar syllables. Hard work is the key to success.

The line was delivered lightly, almost conversationally, but it landed with the precision of a campaign refrain. In India, it circulated instantly across TV tickers and social media feeds. In Italy, it perhaps reinforced Meloni's deliberate reinvention—not merely Europe's most closely watched conservative leader, but a global stateswoman fluent in the grammar of symbolism.

For two years, the India–Italy relationship has gained unusual momentum, driven as much by political chemistry as strategic necessity. Meloni and Modi, popularly named "Melodi" online after the G20 summit in Delhi, have cultivated a public familiarity rare in international diplomacy.

Last week, there was the walk near the Colosseum, the laughter over a packet of Melody toffees gifted by Modi, and the social media clip that surged past 100 million views within hours.

Yet beneath the ease lies calculation. Europe views India as an indispensable democratic counterweight in a fractured global order: a market, a manufacturing hub, and a hedge against Chinese influence. India, in turn, sees Italy as a gateway into Europe's industrial core and a receptive voice.

Meloni, perhaps more than many of her European counterparts, instinctively reads Modi's political language. Both leaders rose from margins. Their ideological overlap has turned a once transactional relationship into something warmer. Meloni has called India a "strategic partner." Modi has described Italy as a trusted ally. Behind the rhetoric sits a framework of defence cooperation, clean energy initiatives, technology partnerships, and expanding trade ambitions.

But Meloni's embrace of India also arrives at a delicate moment in her domestic trajectory. It was not so long ago, she appeared politically unassailable. At the G7 summit in Apulia in 2024, she danced the pizzica (Italian folk dance) under southern Italian skies, shifted effortlessly between languages, and hosted world leaders with the confidence of a politician who had outgrown her far-right origins. Once dismissed as an heir to post-fascist politics, she had become, improbably, the acceptable face of Europe's right.

She worked carefully for that legitimacy. She aligned with NATO on Ukraine, maintained functional ties with Brussels, and earned cautious respect from centrist leaders. Meloni achieved what Marine Le Pen of France has not—proximity to power without full ideological quarantine.

Yet contradictions persist. At home, she faces unease over judicial reforms, accusations of democratic overreach and questions about her party's ideological ancestry. Secret recordings of youth activists praising Mussolini reignited scrutiny she has long sought to contain. Abroad, her once-promising rapport with Donald Trump has become volatile, with public clashes exposing the fragility of her carefully constructed transatlantic balancing act.

NEWSMAKER

That volatility helps explain why the India ties have gained new weight. With Modi, Meloni finds a partnership less encumbered by ideological suspicion.

Meloni's political skill has always been adaptation, shifting between the language of civilisational struggle and technocratic compromise within the same day. For Meloni, politics has always been labour—the steady effort to harness nationalism's emotional charge and to normalise it in a world increasingly shaped by leaders who understand that power is as much performance as policy.

'Strengthening def infra': Gymkhana Club told to leave premises by June 5

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

NEARLY 100 years after a 27.3 acre plot on Safdarjung Road in Lutyens' Delhi was leased to the Delhi Gymkhana Club, the Centre has initiated the process of reclaiming it from one of the oldest clubs in the country. The Land and Development Office (LDO)—which functions under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—has asked the club to return the premises by June 5.

The LDO said that the land was required for "strengthening and securing defence infrastructure" and for "other vital public security purposes". A letter from the office sent to the secretary of the club on Friday, read, "It has been determined that the said premises, located in a highly sensitive and strategic area of Delhi, is critically required for the strengthening and securing of defense infrastructure and other vital public security purposes. The land is essential to fulfill urgent institutional needs, governance infrastructure and public-interest projects, integrated with the resumption of adjoining government lands."

According to the letter, the LDO exercised the powers conferred under clause four of the lease deed to determine the agreement and ordered re-entry of the premises with immediate effect. "Upon such re-entry, the entire plot of land measuring 27.3 acres, along with all buildings, standing erections, structures, lawns, and fittings thereon, shall vest absolutely in the lessor, i.e., the President of India, through the Land & Development Office... The premises shall be taken over by the L&DO office on June 05, 2026," the communique stated.

In view of the Government order, the Gymkhana Club told its members that it had received a communication from the L&DO seeking re-entry and resumption of the club premises for defence infrastructure and public security purposes.

West Asia crisis a boon for domestic tourist destinations

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AS geopolitical tensions in West Asia continue to disrupt international travel plans and given the depreciation in rupee value, Indian travellers are increasingly choosing holiday destinations within the country, triggering a rise in domestic tourism demand.

According to industry estimates, destinations in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Sikkim and Goa are witnessing a significant surge in bookings as travellers are avoiding trips abroad due to safety concerns and growing uncertainty.

Many are giving preference to spiritual destinations such as Rishikesh, Ayodhya, Varanasi and the Buddhist circuit. The phenomenon has led to a roughly 30-35% increase in demand for domestic destinations.

The general secretary of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH), Rajiv Mehra, said that ever since tensions flared up in West Asia, Indians started exploring travel options within the country.

"There is roughly an increase of 30-35% in domestic tourism demand. Premium domestic destinations such as Munnar, Kashmir, Kodaikanal, Shillong, Lakshadweep, Gangtok and Darjeeling are in demand. People consider travelling within the country safer and affordable. There are multiple reasons: expensive airfares, safety, and depreciation of the rupee," Mehra said.

The chairperson of the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC), Jyoti Mayal, citing high airfare as one of the major reasons behind the trend, said that the people are still sceptical of travelling to West Asia.

"Spiritual destinations like Rishikesh, Ayodhya, and Varanasi are most preferred for short vacations. Char Dham is also drawing traction. But these are for limited time periods," said Mayal, who earlier headed the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI).

Out of nearly two crore Indians travelling abroad, West Asian countries would get 30-35% of them. Mehra said that about 60-70 lakh Indians were travelling to Gulf countries annually, and this number had dwindled to almost zero. "50% of the total tourists have diverted to countries such as Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as these countries are not impacted by currency depreciation," he said.

The industry is of the opinion that the situation should be used as an opportunity to make domestic travel attractive, and the authorities should work on the improvement of facilities.

Surya Kiran team clocks 30 years, 800 displays

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

AIR Chief Marshal A P Singh is likely to fly with the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) on Tuesday as the Indian Air Force's premier display squadron marks three decades since it was raised at Air Force Station Bidar, Karnataka in 1996.

The milestone comes months after the team completed its 800th display at Wings India in Hyderabad. Over the past thirty years, Surya Kiran has emerged as the IAF's aerial ambassador, representing the force at major air shows, national events and international aviation displays across Asia and beyond.

It is among the few nine-aircraft aerobatic formations in the world and the only one in Asia. The team flies the Hawk Mk-132 advanced jet trainer, licence-produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), with pilots often maintaining separations of less than five metres during complex manoeuvres.

The squadron is currently commanded by Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi, a Su-30MKI pilot and qualified flying instructor with Wing Commander Tejeshwar Singh serving as deputy leader. The team comprises 13 pilots drawn from some of the IAF's frontline flying streams.

SKAT performs manoeuvres during a full-dress rehearsal in B'luru on Saturday | PTI

Among the few nine-aircraft aerobatic formations

Over the past thirty years, Surya Kiran has emerged as the IAF's aerial ambassador, representing the force at major air shows across Asia and beyond. It is among the few nine-aircraft aerobatic formations in the world and the only one in Asia. The team flies the Hawk Mk-132 advanced jet trainer, with pilots often maintaining separations of less than five metres during complex manoeuvres.

Its display routine includes loops, barrel rolls, diamond formations, crossovers and the signature heart-shaped manoeuvre, flown at altitudes between 100 and 1,000 feet. The Hawk jets are fitted with indigenous smoke pods developed at the IAF's Base Repair Depot in Nashik, allowing the team to trail saffron, white and green smoke during displays.

International deployments have taken the squadron to the UAE, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and China. Among its most notable recent performances was the display over Chennai that drew an estimated 1.7 million spectators along the coastline.

Earlier this year in March, the team also conducted its first aerobatic display over the Himalayas. The squadron was formally designated 52 Squadron, "Sharks", in May 2006, inheriting the legacy of an erstwhile MiG-21 FL unit. It initially flew the HAL Kiran Mk-II trainer aircraft, from which it derived its name, Surya Kiran (Rays of the Sun).

Following the retirement of the Kiran fleet and a brief hiatus, the team was revived in 2015 with the Hawk Mk-132 advanced jet trainer.

The supersonic platform combines modern avionics with a secondary weapons-training role, carrying up to 3,000 kg of bombs, rockets and missiles, besides a 30 mm cannon and can attain speeds of up to Mach 1.2. The transition gave the squadron a newer platform and allowed it to resume full-scale aerobatic displays after a gap of several years.

'Cheetah' crash in Leh puts spotlight back on Army's ageing copter fleet

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THREE Indian Army officers, including a division commander, were injured after their Cheetah light helicopter crashed near Leh in Ladakh on Wednesday. Sources said the helicopter was carrying 3 Division Commander Major General Sachin Mehta and two pilots when it met with the accident during an afternoon sortie in the Ladakh sector.

"All three personnel survived and are in stable condition, sources added. Two pilots sustained minor injuries and were admitted to hospital for treatment," the source said.

The Army has ordered a Court of Inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The helicopter involved in the crash was a Cheetal variant, an upgraded version of the Cheetah equipped with a more powerful TM333B engine designed to improve performance in extreme high-altitude conditions.

Derived from the French-origin Alouette III helicopter, the Cheetah-Cheetal family has

served as a workhorse of Indian military aviation for decades, particularly in frontier regions such as Ladakh, Siachen and Arunachal Pradesh.

The latest accident has once again drawn attention to the ageing Cheetah-Cheetal fleet and long-standing concerns over its safety record.

In 2015, the Army Wives Agitation Group (AWAG), which had campaigned for the replacement of the helicopters, told then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar that 191 Cheetah and Chetak helicopters had crashed over the preceding three decades, resulting in 294 pilot fatalities.

The issue resurfaced in 2022 following a fatal Cheetah crash in Arunachal Pradesh. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AWAG claimed that 31 military pilots had lost their lives in accidents involving Cheetah and Chetak helicopters since 2017 and urged the government to expedite the induction of replacement platforms.

Despite concerns over ageing airframes and maintenance challenges, the fleet is routinely used for reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, troop movement and logistics support to remote forward posts located at high altitudes.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) has been selected to replace the ageing Cheetah-Cheetal fleet. While the Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement of 12 Limited Series Production LUHs in 2021, the transition to the new platform has progressed slower than anticipated, extending the operational life of the legacy fleet. Earlier efforts to augment the fleet through acquisition of Russian Ka-226T light helicopters also failed to materialise.

LAND GRAB
The ED initiated the process of attaching a bungalow belonging to ex-Kolkata Police DC Santanu Sinha Biswas in Murshidabad following his arrest over the alleged Sona Pappu land grab and fraud case.

2 BROTHERS BURIED ALIVE UNDER SAND IN WELL IN RAJ's KARAULI DIST

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	30	Mumbai	33	31
Bhopal	42	30	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	42	31	Patna	41	28
Amritsar	41	27	Lucknow	42	29
Chennai	37	29	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	37	30	Imphal	28	22
Srinagar	24	13	Chandigarh	41	28

MahaYuti 12:3:2 formula for 17 biennial MLC polls

Alliance partners at daggers drawn as they vie for same set of seats

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE MahaYuti has struck down the '12:3:2 formula' for the 17 seats of the biennial elections of the Maharashtra state legislative council's local body.

The Election Commission of India has announced the MLC—local body election. While June 1 is the last date for the submission of the nomination, voting is scheduled on June 18 and counting on June 22. The elected members of the local bodies – District Panchayats – are eligible voters to cast their votes in this election.

The 17 local body constituencies that are going for the MLC election are Pune, Ahilyanagar, Thane, Jalgaon, Sangli-Satara, Nanded, Yavatmal, Solapur, Bhandara-Gondiya, Raigad-Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Nashik, Wardha-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli, Amravati, Dharashiv-Latur-Beed, Parbhani-Hingoli, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar – Jalna, and Nagpur (by-election).

Senior BJP leader Chandrashekhar Bawankule met the deputy chief minister Sunetra Pawar and deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, where they discussed the Mahayuti formula, under which the BJP will contest 12 seats, while Shiv Sena will contest three seats, and NCP will get two out of the total 17 seats. Mahayuti is confident of winning all MLC seats.

June 1 last date for submission of nomination
The Election Commission of India has announced the MLC – local body election. While June 1 is the last date for the submission of the nomination, voting is scheduled on June 18 and counting on June 22. The elected members of the local bodies are eligible to cast their votes.

Sources said that Shiv Sena is not happy with this formula. "Shiv Sena wants four to five MLC seats, and the same demand was conveyed in the meeting that was held with the BJP leaders. However, the final decisions will be taken by the chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, DCM Eknath Shinde, and DCM Sunetra Pawar," said a source who requested anonymity.

There are many constituencies that have turned into flashpoints among the Mahayuti alliance partners. The BJP and the NCP both staked a claim over the Pune local body's MLC seat. Meanwhile, the NCP and the Shiv Sena both have their sights set on the Raigad seat. Nasik is also among the creating an internal struggle. Political hopefuls have been making a beeline to meet Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde & Sunetra Pawar to highlight their contributions as party leaders.

Meanwhile, the Maha Vikas Aghadi—is struggling to home in on a candidate that could win seats against the MahaYuti.

PK likely to contest Bankipur bypoll in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

JAN Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor is likely to contest the bypoll in the Bankipur Assembly constituency in Patna, which fell vacant after BJP leader Nitin Nabin was elected to the Rajya Sabha following his elevation as the party's national president.

Speaking to mediapersons in Jhanjharpur in Madhubani district, Kishor said, "Only the Jan Suraaj can defeat the BJP in Bankipur because, for the last 40 years, the Opposition — RJD and Congress — has failed to secure even half the votes on this seat, let alone win the election." However, Kishor avoided giving a direct reply when asked whether he would contest the by-election from the Bankipur seat. Political circles are abuzz with speculation that he may enter the fray from Bankipur, as a victory there would provide a significant morale boost to the party. Meanwhile, several names are doing the rounds within the BJP for the Bankipur Assembly seat, long considered a saffron stronghold.

Kishor also opened up about the surging popularity for the Cockroach Janata Party, saying, "If 20 million people are gathering on a single platform to voice their grievances against the government, it should be a matter of concern for it. This reflects the scale of public dissatisfaction."

UP Cong chief booked in Mahoba for derogatory remarks against Modi

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AN FIR was lodged against Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief **Ajay Rai** in Mahoba district on Saturday for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The FIR was based on the police complaint by the BJP's district executive member Neeraj Rawat. Rai and 30 of his unidentified accomplices have been named in the FIR.

The UPCC chief was accused of spreading enmity, accumulating a crowd without administration's permission, obstructing government work and creating a road blockade.

Significantly, Rai's remarks escalated a war of words between the BJP and the Congress. The alleged abusive words used by Rai against Modi drew strong reaction from the BJP camp, including UP CM Yogi Adityanath and the entire BJP leadership after a purported video of Rai went viral on social media platforms.

While the UPCC chief called it a fake video, accusing the BJP camp of fabricating it and claiming that he would lodge a police complaint in that connection, CM Yogi attributed the abusive language to Rai's mental bankruptcy, reflecting his party's frustration after facing back-to-back electoral defeats.

In a post on X, Yogi said the comments made against the PM reflected the "political misconduct and poor culture" of the Congress. Rai's indecent, unparliamentary and inexcusable remarks against PM expose the political values of Congress," wrote the UP CM. Targeting the Congress leadership further, he said that even the party's "Yuvraj" (read: Rahul Gandhi) had previously displayed similar political behaviour.

"Congress has now reached the highest level of despair, frustration, and mental bankruptcy. They are no longer even in a position to apologise to the people of the country," he added. The remarks came amid escalating political confrontation between the BJP and Congress after Rai's recent comment on the Prime Minister.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

Shinde most popular leader among people

The political parties are in the process of conducting multiple surveys to gauge the choice of the people when it comes to picking up their CM. In one ruling party (excluding Shiv Sena), the 10 top names that have emerged include incumbent CM Devendra Fadnavis, DCM Eknath Shinde, DCM Sunetra Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, NCP SP Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, and state Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal. The majority of people said that they want DCM Eknath Shinde to again occupy the CM's seat. Women participants showed more trust in Eknath Shinde due to his flagship scheme of the Ladki Bahin scheme when he was the CM of Maharashtra.

NCP turns to spiritualism amid internal struggle

NCP, long in news for its internal power struggle, finally opted for a spiritual path to seek resolution. Politicians and Babas have come together to support each other. NCP state president Sunil Tatkare recently met Art of Living founder and spiritual guru Shri Shri Ravi Shankar and shared a photograph of the meeting, showering praises on him. Earlier, NCP Lok Sabha MP Parth Pawar too met Shri Shri Ravi Shankar and shared a photograph. Now, it remains to be seen whether these meetings will lead to a resolution or the party differences will continue.

BJP leader lectures journalists on coverage

No more praises. A Maharashtra BJP leader recently held a candid talk with the reporters covering the party. He firmly told them that as journalists, they should critically examine the government's decisions and policies and highlight any wrongdoings within the party. The BJP leader warned the reporters against sycophancy toward the party leader, because this will not leave any room for improvement. He expressed his displeasure over reporters who always praise as a "master stroke", even when decisions turned out wrong and harmful. The reporters appeared stunned with such frank feedback.

BRIBERY CASE

Assam officer held, ₹1.66 cr in cash recovered

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AN Assam Civil Service (ACS) officer has been arrested on graft charges, a police officer said on Saturday.

Sleuths of the Directorate of Vigilance & Anti-Corruption have recovered around ₹1.66 crore in cash from his possession and seized fixed deposits worth another ₹86 lakh along with other investment documents.

The accused, Lachit Kumar Das, posted as additional director, Land Records, Guwahati, was apprehended following a complaint alleging that the officer had demanded a bribe for issuing a no-objection certificate for land sale permission.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the Directorate of Vigilance & Anti-Corruption seeking legal action against the officer, prompting sleuths to lay a trap for the officer on May 21. After catching him red-handed accepting a bribe of ₹45,000 from the complainant, the sleuths carried out a raid at his private residence in Guwahati, where they recovered over ₹48.38 lakh in cash from a locker.

Searches at another flat owned by the officer led to the recovery of over ₹1.18 crore.

Gujarat BJP MLA's son, aides accused of torture, caste abuse of tribal driver

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

A tribal dumper driver working for BJP MLA Akshay Patel's family has accused the politician's son and his associates of subjecting him to barbaric torture over allegations of diesel theft.

The case has now escalated into a major political and social controversy, with police registering offences under serious IPC sections and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Natvarbhai Vasava, a resident of Indoregam in the Navinagri area of Jhagdiya taluka, has alleged that he was mercilessly assaulted inside the Bakapur office of Rushi Patel, son of BJP MLA Akshay Patel, where he had been employed as a dumper driver for nearly a year.

According to the police complaint, the horrifying sequence unfolded on May 15 after Natvarbhai returned from Jambusar along with another driver after unloading sand. Around 5 pm, he was allegedly summoned to the office, where Rushi Patel confronted him with a photograph of a vehicle and accused him of stealing diesel. "When I denied the allegation, they became furious. First, Rushi Patel attacked me with an iron pipe, and then the others started beating me with plastic pipes one after another," the victim stated. Natvarbhai has further claimed that the accused crossed all limits of brutality by tying his legs with a rope, hanging him upside down inside the office and hurling caste-based abuses at him while continuing the assault. "They tortured me inhumanly. I was abused because of my caste," the complaint states.

According to the FIR, the accused fled after the victim collapsed. Other employees present at the office later rescued him and transported him on a motorcycle to the Kahona boat ghat, from where his son brought him home.

'Fled after the incident'
According to the FIR, the accused fled after the victim collapsed. Other employees present at the office later rescued him and transported him on a motorcycle to the Kahona boat ghat, from where his son brought him home. His condition reportedly deteriorated rapidly.

Bhopal police zero in on Samarth's hideouts, aides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

ALL those who helped actor-model Twisha Sharma's husband Samarth Singh to be in hiding for over a week (after he was booked along with mother Giribala Singh for Twisha's alleged May 12 dowry death) are on Bhopal Police's radar.

Confirming it, the Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar said on Saturday, "During the police remand, he (Samarth) will also be questioned as to where he was hiding in the past few days." Based on his replies and their verification, those who helped him stay in hiding will be identified. Legal action will be initiated against those persons subsequently."

Since a case of Twisha's dowry death was registered at Bhopal's Katara Hills police station on May 15 against Samarth and retired judge mother Giribala Singh, Samarth has been on the run. While a bounty of ₹30,000 was declared by the Bhopal police commissioner for his arrest, a lookout circular too was issued against him.

"Samarth and his ex-judge mother have close contacts with powerful and influential people in the administration, police and judiciary of MP. This has been revealed by the duo's CDR submitted by their legal team before the local court recently. In such a case, it needs to be probed: who all helped Samarth to be in hiding for 7-10 days. It's possible that those forming part of official machinery in MP might have helped him be in hiding for so many days. It's essential to find all those individuals and act against those who are found to be government staffers/officials," Shubhank Dixit, who is part of Twisha's father's legal team, said.

7-DAY REMAND
1. Court sends Samarth to seven-day police remand
2. Those who helped hide him will be identified
3. Samarth and his mother linked to powerful people
4. Likely that those in official machinery with them

... SC to hear Twisha death case on Monday

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Saturday took suo motu cognisance of the alleged dowry death of 33-year-old Noida woman and former Miss Pune winner Twisha Sharma, as it has decided to hear the case on Monday.

Keeping in view the severity and the brutal nature coupled with other factors—media reports and other attending circumstances—the SC has initiated the suo motu case.

As per the causelist of the SC, the suo motu matter is slated to be heard on Monday by a three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi. The suo motu case was registered on Saturday at 6.30 pm based on "media reports and other attending circumstances."

Her husband Samarth and her mother-in-law, Giribala Singh, an ex-district judge, are accused of dowry harassment and abetment to suicide.

Bureaucrats linked to builder under ED scanner

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

BIG fish in the Punjab bureaucracy and political circles may face heat soon in a change of land use (CLU) case. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is closely examining the role of several senior bureaucrats, including officials in the state's Housing and Urban Development Department; director, town and country planning; the state's chief town planner; and other functionaries linked to the approval process of CLU permissions for many real estate projects, including Suntech City project in New Chandigarh.

The case acquired significance after the investigating agency arrested Ajay Sehgal, a jeweller-turned-real estate developer and promoter of the Indian Cooperative House Building Society, on Friday night. According to sources, he has a role in the multi-crore case involving alleged forgery of landowners' consent letters to obtain CLU approvals for the mega housing project. It is expected that in the coming days senior officials of Great Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) and the Town and Country Planning Department might be arrested.

Sources said that the ED investigation has also brought under scrutiny the alleged role of influential political figures across regimes, including a senior functionary linked to the ruling AAP government. The agency is probing more than a dozen real estate projects where authorities have allegedly revoked only partial CLU under Section 85 of the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, instead of initiating stricter punitive proceedings under Section 90. It is suspected this was deliberately done to allow builders to liquidate their remaining inventory and protect commercial interests. The agency is also examining why no FIRs were registered under the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act despite the allegations of large-scale violations emerging in several projects.

Sehgal had moved court seeking the quashing of a case registered against him in 2022 at the Mullanpur police station near Chandigarh under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 472, and 120-B of the IPC, which are related to cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy in the Suntech City matter. The FIR was registered on the complaint of farmers in the area whose consent was allegedly forged to obtain the CLU for the Suntech City project.

There is a buzz in the bureaucratic circles over reports that certain senior Punjab Police officials allegedly pushed for the quashing of the FIR as the interests of influential politicians and bureaucrats are intertwined with the case. Observers say that had the FIR against Sehgal been quashed, the money laundering investigation of the ED could have suffered a major setback.

Sehgal is considered well connected to politicians.

ED PROBES PUNJAB CLU APPROVALS IN MULTIPLE REAL ESTATE PROJECTS, INCLUDING SUNTECH CITY

CLOSE WATCH
Possible action against GMADA and Town & Country Planning officials

Ajay Sehgal arrested for alleged forged landowner consent in CLU case

Political links under scrutiny, including AAP-related functionary

ED probe has brought under scrutiny the role of political figures

Probe covers 12+ projects and misuse of CLU provisions

Reviving hope at 10K ft: Army reopens border school in Gunji after 3 decades

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A primary school in the Gunji village of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand has been brought back to life after years of neglect. Situated at an altitude of 10,500 feet near the India-China border, the government primary school, which had remained shuttered since 1991 due to harsh Himalayan conditions and seasonal migration, has been restored by the Army under Operation Sadbhavana.

On Friday, senior Army officials inaugurated the renovated, state-of-the-art facility in the remote Vyas valley, which now features amenities like a computer lab and a children's park. Built at an estimated cost of ₹72 lakh, the structure was handed over to the local gram sabha to begin operations.

Military officials said that the purpose of the project was to bring the local population close to the armed forces, while simultaneously providing critical infrastructure for children in the remote area. "This school is more than just a building. It is a symbol of our commitment to the future of the border regions," an Army official said during the inauguration.

This school is more than just a building. It is a symbol of our commitment to the future of the border regions
An Army official

Vimla Gunjyal, the village head of Gunji, lauded the initiative and expressed gratitude to the Army for upgrading the educational infrastructure in the areas. For the residents of Gunji and surrounding villages—including Napalchu, Nabi, Rongkong, and Kuti—the reopening solves a critical problem. Children in the area are often forced to migrate to Dharchula during winter months for continuing studies. They can now stay put in their own villages. The gram sabha has announced that nursery admissions will commence immediately, for which parents have been asked to submit necessary documentation, such as birth certificates and Aadhaar cards.

Discussions are also ongoing with the state's Women and Child Development Department to establish a permanent Anganwadi center at the site.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients have negotiated the purchase of the Immovable Property more-fully described in the Schedule hereunder i.e., **"Schedule Property"** from its present owner **Shri N.P.RAMESH**, aged about 62 years, son of Late N.R.Purushotham, residing at Flat # 001, Skyline Chalet, Opposite Krishna Rao Park, Diwan Madhava Rao Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

If any Person/s, Bank/Society/Firm or anybody having any right, title, interest, lien or claims over the below-mentioned property, may lodge his/her/their objections/claims, if any, in writing with authenticated documentary evidence, to the undersigned within **10 (TEN) DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, failing which it shall be construed by our client that there are no claims/objections of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property and the intended transaction will be finalized by our client as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned and our client will go ahead with the intended sale transaction in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being land bearing Sy No.253/2, situated at T.Megadahalli Village, Talakadu Hobli, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysore District, measuring 1 Acre 16 Guntas and bounded on the

East by : Land bearing Sy No.253/3
West by : Land bearing Sy No.252 (As per the latest Hudbust 252/1)
North by : Road
South by : Land bearing Sy No.253/1.

G. SREENIVAS
Senior Partner
VRUKSHA LAW CHAMBERS
Third Floor, Margosa Plaza (Landmark : Third Wave Coffee), Margosa Road, Between 16th & 17th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 055.
Mob : 9845328686. Date : 24.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Publics are hereby notified that, our client is intended to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners; Mrs.HARSHITHA.G.V wife of Mr.Manjunath.K and Mr.MANJUNATH.K son of Sri. Krishnamurthy, both are residing at Plot No.103, Northwinds-2 Apartment, Neharunagara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, represented that, they are the true, sole and absolute owners of the Schedule Property and having acquired the same, under the Sale Deed dated:23.01.2026, registered as Document No.YAN-1-07981-2025-26, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

The above said owners further represents that, they are the absolute owners in possession having marketable rights, title and interest in the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder and that apart from them there is/are no other persons having any right/s or claim/s whatsoever over the Schedule Property and they have not entered into any Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding/ Deeds etc., of any kind and further they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered with respect to the Schedule Property hereunder or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, with any person/s or firm or company. As such if any person/s is/are objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objection/s or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary proof within 10 (Ten) days from the date of this publication, failing which our client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property, as if deemed that there are no claim/s / objection/s or no one else has / have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of immovable Property being **Residential Vacant Site No. 32, Property No.2709/38/32, having Bengaluru North City Corporation e-Aasthi New EPID No.5344842149, (BBMP Khatha No.2709/38/32, Old Khatha No.38/32, carved out of Sy.No.38 and 15 of Attur Village)**, presently within the limits of Greater Bengaluru Authority, situated at **No.32, Muneshwara Layout, Attur Village Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru North City Corporation Ward No.3-Attur, Bengaluru-560064, measuring East to West: 40-0 feet or 12.2 Meters and North to South: 30-0 feet or 9.1 Meters, in all total measuring 111.5 Square Meters or 1200 Square feet,** including all the rights, privileges and appurtenances and bounded on; East by: Road, West by: Site bearing No.31, North by: Road, South by: Site bearing No.33.

Date : 23.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-, R & R Associates,
V.N. Rudresha, Advocate,
No. 90/1, First Floor, 5th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Benglauru–560003.
Mob: 9880435398

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE (POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)

NABH& NABL Accredited (an autonomous Institution under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399244/257, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

MCC/245/2026-P1-GAD **TENDER NOTICE** 20/05/2026

Competitive e-Tenders/e-ReTenders/EOI are invited from established manufacturers/authorized suppliers through www.etenders.kerala.gov.infor the supply of the following items in Malabar Cancer Centre, Thalassery.

Sl. No	Item Details	Tender ID
1	Expression of Interest (EOI) for Expandable/ Modular Prosthesis (Last date of submission of EOI is on 26/05/2026 at 4.00 PM. (Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in)	MCC/245/2026-P1-GAD
2	Anticancer Drugs	2026_MCC_852074_1
3	Long Term Central Line Catheters and Huber Needle	2025_MCC_808195_2
4	Tracheostomy And Laryngectomy Tubes	2025_MCC_808261_2
5	Low Volume Microfluidic System, capable of homogenizing at 30000 PSI	2026_MCC_834254_5

For details visit:www.mcc.kerala.gov.in or contact Purchase Division. Sd/- Director

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP

LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Reference is invited to the Employment Notice published on 24.04.2026 for filling up 2 (two) posts of **Marine Superintendent on Deputation basis from Central/State Governments and PSUs,** failing which on **Contract basis,** from eligible candidates with Class I Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) certificate having worked as Chief Engineer in coastal/ foreign going vessels for at least one year.

The last date for receipt of applications has been modified to 02.06.2026. Candidates who have already applied in response to the earlier notification **need not apply again.**

Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.

22.05.2026 **Sd/- General Manager**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SMT.RENTALA VISHALA (RENTALA VISALA) W/o late Sri.Narayana Rao,** residing at No.14/15, 204, Sathyanarayana Towers, Putta Veedhi, Balaji Nagar, Nellore, Andra Pradesh-524002. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.255/9/3/1B (Site No.9, Khatha No.255), E.P.I.D.No.4590606275,** measuring East to West 80 ft and Noth to South 50 ft, in all measuring 4000 Sq.ft (carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.3/1B), situated at **Uttarahalli Manavarthe Kaval Village,** Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.198-Hemmigepura and bounded as follows:

East by : Road
West by : B.D.A Property
North by : Property bearing Site No.8
South by : Property bearing Site No.10

Sd/- **BAYYA REDDY. M,** Advocate
No.101, 4th Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client intends to purchase the Immovable Properties bearing Survey Nos. 25/6, 25/7, 25/10, 22/4 and 24/7 situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarajapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, more particularly described in the Schedule of Properties hereunder. The respective owners of the said properties claim to be the absolute owners thereof and have acquired the same through registered deeds as mentioned in the Schedule below.

Hence, if any person/s has any kind of charge, lien, adverse claim, any lease, dispute or objections over the same, they are advised to contact me with all the documentary proof in support of the claim to the below mentioned address within TEN (10) Days from the date of this publication of notice, otherwise it will be construed that there are no charges or claims of whatsoever nature in respect of the aforesaid Properties and my client will proceed for the purchase of the afore said Properties.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

Item No. 1: Sri. Venkateshaiah son of Late Pillappa, who acquired the property through a registered Partition Deed bearing Document No. 59/2001-02, Book I, Volume, Page 227-235, dated 4th April 2001. Immovable Property bearing Sy. No. 25/6 measuring 17.25 Guntas situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarajapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, bounded as follows: East: Remaining Portion of the same Land, West: Ramappa Land, North: Chandrappa's Land, South: Krishnappa Land.

Item No. 2: Sri. Chandrappa son of Late Pillappa, who acquired the property through a registered Partition Deed bearing Document No. 59/2001-02, Book I, Volume, Page 227-235, dated 4th April 2001.Immovable Property bearing Sy. No. 25/7 measuring 22.25 Guntas situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarajapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, bounded as follows: East: Property belonging to Doddathimmarayappa West: Property belonging to Nagappa, North: Remaining Portion of Same Sy. No. 25 belonging to Venkateshaiah, South: Remaining Portion of Same Sy. No. 25.

Item No. 3: Owner: Sri. P. Venkataramana son of Late Pillappa, who claims to be the absolute owner and has acquired the following properties through registered Sale Deeds as detailed hereunder: **A)** Acquired through a registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. Bkl-314/2014-15, dated 28th April 2014. Immovable Property bearing Sy. No. 25/10 measuring 5 Guntas situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarajapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, bounded as follows: East: Remaining Portion of the same Land, West: Land bearing Sy. No. 29, North: Land bearing Sy. No. 25/5, South: Land bearing Sy. No. 27/7. **B)** Acquired through a registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. SRJ-1-01743-2009-10, dated 14th October 2009. Immovable Property bearing Sy. No. 22/4, measuring 9.8 Guntas, situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, bounded as under: East: Dakshinamurthy's Land, West: Chinnappa's Land, North: Kugur Villag Border, South: Same No Gowramma's Land. **C)** Acquired through a registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. Bkl-5056/2020-21, dated 22nd February 2009. Immovable Property bearing Sy. No. 24/7, measuring 09 Guntas, situated at Madappanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, bounded as under: East: Land belongs to Venkataramana West: Remaining Portion of Same Land, North: Land belongs to Chinnappa, South: Land belongs to Susheelamma.

SD/-
Jayanth M Lal, B.B.A., LLB, Advocate
OFF: #420, 4th B Cross, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore
Mobile: 74112 37335
E-mail: jayanthlaladvocate@gmail.com

Bangalore
Date: 22.05.2026

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED- TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer (Commercial &Tariff),
Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Inviting Short term tender for the procurement of 200MW RTC power from 15th June 2026 to 31st August 2026
DEEP portal reference no - KSEBL/Short/26-27/ET/22 dtd 23.05 .2026.
Last Date for submission of queries - 28.05.2026
Submission of RfP (online digitally signed non financial technical Bid and IPOs) – 03.06.2026, 02.00 pm
For more details visit www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/F-388/2026

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED

BANNERGHATTA BRANCH: No.39-44, First Floor, SBR Arcade, Gottigere Jambusavari Dinne Road, Off. B.G Road, Bengaluru - 560083

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being **Authorised Officer of Repco Home Finance** Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 08.08.2025** calling upon the **Borrower: Mrs.R.S.Kavitha,** D/o.Mr.Sundar Raj Ramasamy, No.89/1, 3rd Cross Rainbow Garden, Layout Begihalli Village, Jigani, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-560 105, **Also at,** M/s. RV Trading #2 Katha, No.324/175, Near Nir Maano, Killi, Mamagada Village, Anekal Taluk, Koopa Bangalore, Karnataka-560 105, **Also at,** Site No.24, Sy.No.152, Samandur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-562106, **Co-Borrower: Mr.N.B.Shri Hari,** S/o.Mr N.R Badri, No.89/1 3rd Cross Rainbow Garden, Layout Begihalli Village, Jigani, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-560 105. **Also at,** Team Leare Services Ltd, BMTC Commercial Complex, 6th Floor, 80th Road, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 095, **Also at,** Site No.24, Sy.No.152, Samandur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-562 106 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice vide **Loan Account No.2591890000229** being ₹ **10,51,987/-** with further interest from 05.08.2025 onwards and other costs thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower and the Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-borrower, guarantor and the public in general that **the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below** in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules **on this the 20th day of May 2026.**

The Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Repco Home Finance Limited, Bannerghatta Branch** vide **Loan Account No.2591890000229** for an amount of **₹11,02,053/-** with further interest from **15.05.2026** onwards and other costs thereon.

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **property Site No.24,** converted Sy.No.152, measuring **2 Acres 5 Guntas, situated at Samandur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** duly converted for Non-Agricultural **Residential Purposes** vide order No.ALN(A)and(K)SR.62/2010-11, dated: 29-05-2012, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, **in all measuring 1200 square feet,** and bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: Site No.23, North by: Site No.11, South by : Road.

Date: 20.05.2026 **Authorized Officer, Repco Home Finance Ltd**

UNION BANK OF INDIA

(AGovernment of India Undertaking)

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on the dates mentioned below for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s)

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits are also mentioned hereunder.

Union Bank of India, Ulsoor Road Branch
No.21, Ulsoor Road, Opp: Telephone Exchange, Bengaluru-560042
Mail ID-: ubin0800996@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.(1) Mr.Ramaiah.K.M, No.49, Hosabeedi, Kote, Kanakapura, Ramanagara District 562112, **(2) Mrs. Radha H.,** W/o Ramaiah K M, No.49, Hosabeedi, Kote, Kanakapura, Ramanagara District -562112.
Amount Due : Rs.1,24,05,789/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Nine only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.23, V P Khata No.719/34/3, BBMP Khata No.719/34/3/23, formed by Gubbalala village Sy. No.34/3, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 45 feet totally measuring 2700 Sq.ft with building constructed thereon, situated at Gubbalalu village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bengaluru and bounded on: East By : Site No.14, West By : Road, North By: Site No.22, South By: Site No. 24

Reserve Price:Rs.2,84,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Eighty Four Lakh only)
EMD: Rs.28,40,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Forty Thousand only)

FFor Auction related queries contact **Union Bank of India,**
Ulsoor Road Branch, **Contact No: 9008555435**

Union Bank of India, St Johns Church Road Branch,
No 13, ICON Building, Cleveland Town Bangalore 560005
Email :UBIN0558923@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:i) Mr. Rohan Sadashiva Shetty, No 594/A Flat No G 1, Sai Apartment , Near Trikoni Garden,Sangli, Maharashtra 416416, **Also at :** No 68/1, 158,Malathalli Ullala Main Road,Mangalore College Back Side, Bangalore 560056,**Also at :** Room No.244, Block A, Building Near Ritaj, Near Dunes Village, Dubai Investment Park 2 Dubai, UAE, **ii)Mr. Rishabh Sadashiva Shetty,** Srinivas T,No 68/1, 158/1, Jnanajyothinagara, Back side Mangalore PU College,•Mallathahalli, PO: Ullaalu Upanagara
Bangalore 560056
Amount Due : Rs.1,99,10,395/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Nine Lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses
Description of the Secured Assets: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing New Municipal No. 67 Portion of converted land bearing Survey No 67, vide duly Order Bo. B Dis. ALN. SR (S) 208/89-90. Dated 18-12-1991. Issued by special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore now within the limits of BBMP. Ward Name Rajarajeshwarinagar and Ward No 160 and having BBMP Katha No. 176/67/20 measuring East to West 60-0 and North to South 40-0 feet in all measuring 2400 square feet together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether undermeath above the surface situated at Halagevaderahalli village Kengeri Hobli Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by: Site No 43, North by: Site No. 21, South by : Site No 19.
SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 480.00 Sq. Ft undivided share, right, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' property
SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Property bearing Flat No. TF1 3rd Floor, containing Three bed rooms having and Super Built up Area of 2250 Sq. Ft which includes proportionate share in common area and other areas used in common by all the Apartment Owners in "MSR NIGAM" along with exclusive right to use One Top Covered Car Parking space bearing #TF1, in the "MSR NIGAM" construct on schedule "A" Property and he Apartment is bounded by : East by : Common passage, West By : Others Property, North by : Others Property.

Reserve Price:Rs.2,04,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Four Lakh Only)
EMD: Rs.20,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Forty Thousand only)

For Auction related queries contact **Union Bank of India,**
St. Johns Church Road Branch, **Contact No: 6282738283**

Union Bank of India, S. C. Road Branch
No.71/1,Brigade Plaza SC Road, Near Anand Rao Circle,Bangalore-560009
Mail Id:ubin0901440@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor: 1.Mrs. Vijaya B, W/o Mr. Chikkeregowda K, No.149, Rajivgandhi Nagar, Near new Ganesha temple, HSR Layout, Sector T, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068
2.Mr. Chikkeregowda K, No.149, Rajivgandhi Nagar, Near new Ganesha temple, HSR Layout, Sector T, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068.
Amount Due : Rs. 28,60,761/-(RupeesTwenty Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses
Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing vacant Site No.46 and 46A, property No.30/1,30/2,31, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Bommanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the limits of BBMP measuring East to West 35 ft and North to south 33 ft in all totally measuring 1155 Sqft and bounded by:East by : Road,West by : Private property,North by : Road,South by : Private property.

Reserve Price: Rs.54,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Only)
EMD: Rs.5,40,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Thousand Only)

For Auction related queries contact **Union Bank of India,**
S. C. Road Branch, Contact No: 9442633440

Date and Time of E-auction 24.06.2026 (12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.)
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for Submission of EMD : On or before commencement of e-auction E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com and http://www.unionbankof india.co.in**
The online E- auction will be held through website:https://baanknet.com

Date: 19.05.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
No. 29/1, Sir. M N Krishna Rao Road
Lalbagh West, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 004
Ph:9141183507 / 8762173693
Email: recovery@canfinhomes.com
Website: www.canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699 GST NO: 33AAACC7241A1ZE PAN: AAACC7241A

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

APPENDIX 1V-A [See Proviso to rule 9 (1)]

E- Auction SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Karnataka State Branches, will be soldby holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **16-06-2026,** for recovery of amount mentioned hereinafter due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from respective Borrowers and Guarantors as on the respective dates, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

Sl. No	Nameof the borrower & Guarantor	liability as on 22.05.2026	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Type of Possession	Description of the Property
1	**1.Mrs. Bhagya J** D/o Choodamani K (Borrower) **2. Mr. Hemantha Kumar** (Guarantor)	Rs. 6,84,337/- (Rupees Six lakh eighty-four thousand three hundredthirty-seven only)	Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five lakh fifty thousand only).	Rs. 55,000/- (Rupees Fifty-five thousand only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of immovable property Plot No. 228, PID No. 152900101400100341 Situated at Kudlur Village, Kasaba Hobli, ChanapatnaTaluk, Ramanagaram, Bangalore South. **Measuring** East to West: 5.48 Mtrs, North to South:10.05 Mtrs,Totally measuring 55.074 Sq.Mtrs. **Bounded on:** East by: Property of Mrs. Shivammani W/o Late Srinivas Raje Urs, West by: Property of Mr. Puttabuddi Raje Urs bin late Marapparaje Urs, North by: Road, South by: House of Mrs. Lathammani & Mrs. Geetha. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
2	1.**Mrs. Manjula Chikkahanumaiah** W/O Chikkahanumaiah K (borrower) **2. Mr. Chikkahanumaiah K** S/O Kariyappa (co Borrower) **3. Sanjeev Kumar R C** S/O Chikka hanumaiah K (co Borrower) **4.Raghunanandan C** S/O Chikkahanumaiah K (Co Borrower) **5. Mr.Venkararamu D** S/O Dodda hanumaiah (Guarantor)	Rs. 21,69,108/- (Rupees Twenty-one lakh sixty-nine thousand one hundred eight only)	Rs. 14,61,000/- (Rupees Fourteen lakh sixty-one thousand only).	Rs. 1,46,100/- (Rupees One lakh forty-six thousand one hundred only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearingKatha No.603/250, Property No.152900102401020122, situated at Rampura Village and Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara, Bangalor South- 562160. Measuring East to West-7.31520 Mtr , North to South-9.144 Mtr . in all measuring 66.89 Sq Mtr or 720 Sq Ft and bounded on: - East by : Vacant Site of Mr.Dodda Hanumaiah &Mrs.Jayamma,West by: Vacant Site of Mr.Marikenchaiah, North by: Road, South by: Remaining Property in same number. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
3	1.**Mrs. Smt. Lakshmamma** W/o Late. Siddaramaiah (Borrower) **2.Mr. Siddaraju** S/o Late.Siddaramaiah (co Borrower), **3.Arun Kumar** S/o Krishnaiah (guarantor)	Rs. 30,36,526/- (Rupees Thirty lakh thirty-six thousand five hundred twenty-six only).	Rs. 38,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty-eight lakh only).	Rs. 3,80,000/- (Rupees Three lakh eighty thousand only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Khaneshuwari No. 262/2/114, E-Property No. 152900402100700645, Situated at Sangabasavanadoddi,Kethohalli Village , Mayaganahalli Grama punchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagaram, Bangalor South, Karnataka -562159. **Measuring** East to West 10.6680 mtr, North to South 10.0584 mtr, Totally measuring 107.30 Square mtr. **Bounded on:** East by: Road, West by: Land of Yallappa, North by: Property of Kariyappa, South by: Property of Venkatappa. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
4	**1.Mrs.Chikkathayamma** W/o Mallaiah(Borrower) **2.Manjunath M** S/o Mallaiah L (Co Borrower), **3.Mallaiah L** S/o Late Ningappa (Co Borrower), **4.Ningaraju M** S/o Mallaiah L (Co Borrower), **5.Nagaraju R** S/o Ramanna (guarantor)	Rs. 38,16,581/- (Rupees Thirty-eight lakh sixteen thousand five hundred eighty-one only).	Rs. 26,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty-six lakh fifty thousand only).	Rs. 2,65,000/- (Rupees Two lakh sixty-five thousand only).	Physical	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Property No.62, Old No.03, Present Katha No.07 Sheshagiripura Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South-562130. **Measuring** East To West- 40 Feet , North To South-30 Feet . in all measuring 1200 SqFeet . **bounded on: -** East by : Property No.65, West by : Road, North by : Property No.63, South by : Property No.61. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
5	**1.Mr. Channaiah B, Mrs. Shobha C And Mrs. Pushpa B** (Borrowers) **2. Mr. Srinivas.N** (Guarantors)	Rs. 35,10,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	Rs. 30,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh only)	Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing at "Chowdeshwari Layout" Site No.24, Formed Out of Property bearing No.56/1, Khatha No. 56/1, Situated at NALLASANDRA VILLAGE, Mantapa Grama Panchayathi, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring: East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 20 feet, in all measuring 800 Square feet along with building constructed there on bounded as follows:-East by: Site No.21,West by: Road, North by: Site No.23,South by: Site No.25. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
6	**1. Mr. Anand Kumar, 2. Mrs. Pooja Devi** (Borrowers) **3. Mr. Vikas Kumar** (Guarantor)	Rs. 13,47,931/- (Rupees Thirteen lakh forty-seven thousand nine hundred thirty-one only).	Rs. 16,60,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Sixty Thousand only)	Rs. 1,66,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Six Thousand only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of residential Property bearing Site No. 1, Katha No. 235/1, Old Assessment No. 235, Property No. 235/1 situated at Mantapa Village, Mantapa Village Panchayath, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru -560105, Property **measuring** East to west (31+15)/2 feet and North to South (40+45)/2 feet, in all measuring 977.5 Square Feet, **bounded on the** East By: Road,West By: Site No. 2/1 and 1/1,North By: Private Property,South By: Road. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
7	1. **Kumar H S** (Applicant) And **2. Kalavathi C S** (Co-applicant)	Rs. 58,44,136/- (Rupees Fifty-eight lakh forty-four thousand one hundred thirty-six only)	Rs. 34,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh only)	Rs. 3,40,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Thousand only)	Physical	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 199, Old Khata No. 59/199, PID No. 150300400300921599, Hoskote Planning Authority Vide Order No. HPA/LAO/35/2014-15, Dated 07.09.2015 Called as Vrunda City Layout, Situated At Bagalur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - 562149, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet Totally Measuring 1200 Sq Ft and bounded on the :East: Site No. 198West: Site No. 184, North: 30 Feet Road, South: Site No. 200 **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
8	**1. Santhosh K** (Applicant) **2.Vijaya Lakshmi** (Co-applicant) **3. Gowramma** (Guarantor)	Rs. 31,27,341/- (Rupees Thirty-one lakh twenty-seven thousand three hundred forty-one only)	Rs. 33,20,000/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Thousand only)	Rs. 3,32,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Two Thousand only)	Constructive	**SCHEDULE OF "A" PROPERTY(Description Of Entire Property)** :All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being plot no 468, town municipal khatha no. 1563/468/138/468, totally measuring 2,179.14 Sq.Mtrs.(23,447.55 Sq.Ft.) carved out of residentially converted land in Sy.No. 117, duly converted for residential purpose official vide Memorandum bearing No. BDS/ALN/SR/120/1997-98 dated 13-03-1998 situated at Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District in BMRDA approved project and bounded on the, East: Road, West: Park and Pathway, North: Road, South: Road **SCHEDULE OF "B" PROPERTY (Description of Unit/Apartment)** A Single Bedroom Flat Bearing No. 316 on the Third Floor of the Building in Cedar Court constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property with a super built – up area of 595 Square Feet (55.276 sq.mtrs.) (Carpet Area 465 Sq.Ft/43.199 Sq.mtrs.) Which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use.East: Flat no 315, West: Road, North: Corridor, South: Road. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
9	**1.Gundayya S Swami** (Applicant) **2.Poojavati Gundayya** (co Applicant)	Rs. 13,05,630/- (Rupees Thirteen lakh five thousand six hundred thirty only).	Rs. 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only)	Rs. 90,000/- (Rupees Ninety Thousand only)	Constructive	Residential Flat bearing No. H-4 on the Third Floor measuring in all super builtup area 437.12 Sq.feet (40.61 Sq.mtrs) & Carpet area 388 Sq.feet (36.02 Sq.mtrs) approximately and additional (Common) area 49.40 Sq. feet (4.59 Sq.mtrs) in Devi Apartment Phase II constructed on Plots bearing No. 6 and 7, land Survey No. 12/2C/3, each measuring 30' x 40' i.e. 1200 Sq. feet and totally measuring 2400 Sq. feet situated at KOTNOOR 'D', Tq & Dist. Kalaburagi. **Boundaries :**East : 30 feet wide road, West: Flat No G-4, North: Devi Apartment phase I, South : Flat No E-4. **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**
10	**1. Mrs. Neeta P Metrani And 2. Mr. Parashuram G Metrani**	Rs. 33,42,768/- (RupeesThirty three lakh forty two thousand seven hundred sixty eight only)	Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh only)	Rs. 70,000/- (Rupees Seventy Thousand only)	Constructive	All the piece and parcel of immovable property PLOT No.38 R.S.NO.472, ADMEASURING 1157 Sqft.AREA Situated Near Lotus Garden, Sherewad Village Hubballi – 580028 Boundaries: North : Road, South: R.S.No.471 East : Plot no. 37 West: Plot no. 39 **Known Encumbrances if any:Nil**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (www.canfinhomes.com) please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx
Link for participating in e-auction :www.auctionbazaar.com

Date : 23.05.2026
Place :Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd

VRIDHI HOME FINANCE
Registered & corporate office address - 1st floor, No. 38, GKR Sapthagiri Vaishtadhama, 12th cross, Office CBI Road, Ganganagar, Bangalore 560032

POSSESSION NOTICE

See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **The Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the following Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest / cost etc,. **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower under.

Nelamangala Branch

1. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagers/Guarantors: (1) Mr. Ekantha G R S/o Ramachandra, **(2) Mrs. Basamma G** W/o Gangabailappa, **(3) Mr. Yogesh R** S/o Ramachandra, All are residing at : Nelamangala Taluk, Gollahalli, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562123. **(4) Mr. Gangabailappa (Guarantor)** D/o Yallamma No.185, AK Colony, Bangalore, Karnataka-560056.

Demand notice dated : 20.03.2026 **Possession Notice Date : 20.05.2026**

Total amount mentioned in the notice: (1) A/c No.VHF100000009533 Rs. 4,00,000/-(Rupees Four Lakhs Only) as on 17.03.2026 and interest thereon.

Demand notice dated : 20.03.2026 **Possession Notice Date : 20.05.2026**

Total amount mentioned in the notice: (2) A/c No.VHF100000002872, Rs. 6,65,701/-(Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred One Only) as on 17.03.2026 and interest thereon.

Description of the Immovable Property : Allthat piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Khatha No.94/162, E-Khatha PID No.150300700701000206, Situated at Gollahalli Village Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and measuring East to West 11.5824 Mtrs, and North to South 10.3632 Mtrs., in all measuring 120.03 Sq., Mtrs., together with a residential house constructed thereon having 111.48 Sq.Mtrs of built up area 120.03 Sq., Mtrs and bounded on the following boundaries Bounded by: North: Road, South: Remaining property, East: Remaining property, West: House of Ekanth.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on above mentioned dates.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **The Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd.,** for the amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued thereon cost.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 20.05.2026 **Sd/- The Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **The Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd.,**

40,000
under evacuation orders for a chemical tank leak in Southern California

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Gas explosion at China's Shanxi coal mine kills 90

Cause under investigation as 9 remain missing, over 120 hospitalised

BEIJING

A gas explosion at a coal mine in China's northern Shanxi province killed at least 90 people, state media said on Saturday. It was the country's deadliest mining accident in recent years. The official *Xinhua News Agency* said the accident at Changzhi city's Liushenyu coal mine happened on Friday evening. Around 247 workers were on duty at the time.

Nine miners were still unaccounted for as of Saturday afternoon, Xinhua said, and more than 120 people were hospitalised. The cause of the explosion was under investigation, Xinhua reported, and rescue work is pressing on with hundreds of rescuers and medical personnel sent to the site. Among the injured, many were hurt by toxic gas, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for an all-out effort to rescue the missing, Xinhua reported. Xi also called for the "proper handling of the aftermath of the accident and urged a thorough investigation into its cause, with accountability pursued in accordance with the law." Xinhua later reported that those responsible for the company involved in the mine accident have been "placed under control," citing the local emergency management bureau. An investigation team sent by China's powerful State Council, equivalent to the country's cabinet, would be conducting a "rigorous and uncompromising" probe into the deadly explosion, a separate Xinhua report said following Xi's remarks.

Rescue workers prepare to descend into a coal mine in the aftermath of an explosion at Changzhi city's Liushenyu coal mine in Qinyuan county, northern China's Shanxi Province | AP

Wang Yong, one of the hospitalized miners, told CCTV in a video interview that he smelled sulfur "like firecrackers" and saw smoke. "I told people to run," he said. "As I ran, I saw people being choked by the smoke. And then I blacked out." The state broadcaster also reported that blueprints provided by the coal mine did not match the actual layout, hampering rescue efforts. The coal mine, operated by the Shanxi Tongzhou Coal & Coke Group with an annual production capacity of 1.2 million tons, was placed on a national list of disaster-prone coal mines by China's National Mine Safety Administration in 2024 for having "high gas content."

Shanxi province is known as China's main coal mining province. With a size larger than Greece and a population of around 34 million, the province's hundreds of thousands of miners dug 1.3 billion tons of coal last year, almost a third of China's total. *AP*

Iran warns Trump against fresh strikes

TEHRAN: Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Saturday warned of a "crushing" response if US President Donald Trump resumes attacks on Iran, saying Tehran had rebuilt its armed forces during the six-week ceasefire. "Our armed forces have rebuilt themselves during the ceasefire period in such a way that if Trump commits another act of folly and restarts the war, it will certainly be more crushing and bitter for the United States," Ghalibaf posted on social media. He issued the warning after meeting Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in Tehran.

France bans Israel's Ben-Gvir over flotilla row

PARIS: France on Saturday banned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir from entering the country, citing his "unspeakable" treatment of activists detained from a Gaza-bound flotilla. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot accused Ben-Gvir of threatening French and European citizens and urged the European Union to impose sanctions on him. Ben-Gvir sparked outrage this week after sharing videos showing him taunting detainees from the Global Sumud Flotilla. Poland has also barred Ben-Gvir for five years. The flotilla was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off Gaza.

US & Iran express guarded optimism though gaps remain in peace talks

TEHRAN

SENIOR US and Iranian officials said on Saturday they could be close to a breakthrough in talks to strike a draft deal to end the war in the West Asia. Iran said gaps remain between the parties, and the dispute over its nuclear programme would not be part of the initial talks.

But US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expressed optimism, just as Pakistan's army chief, a key go-between between the United States and Iran, left Tehran after two days of talks with senior Iranian leaders.

"There is a chance that, whether it's later today, tomorrow, in a couple days, we may have something to say," Rubio told reporters Saturday during a visit to New Delhi, adding that he hoped that he would soon be able to announce "good news".

The Iranian foreign ministry also said that a draft deal might at last be close. "Our intention was first to draft a memorandum of understanding, a kind of framework agreement composed of 14 clauses," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on state television. He noted what he called "a trend towards rapprochement" but said "it does not necessarily mean that we and the United States will reach an agreement on the important issues."

Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf had warned earlier that Washington would face a tough response if it resumes hostilities, after US media reports raised the prospect of new strikes and Iranian officials accused the US side of making "excessive demands".

WAR WATCH

"Our armed forces have rebuilt themselves during the ceasefire period in such a way that if Trump commits another act of folly and restarts the war, it will certainly be more crushing and bitter for the United States than on the first day of the war," Ghalibaf posted on social media. He issued the warning after meeting in Tehran with Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, a leading figure in international efforts to negotiate an end to the war, which broke out after the United States and Israel attacked the Islamic republic on February 28.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (R) meets with Pakistan's Army Chief Syed Asim Munir in Tehran | AFP

Weeks of negotiations — including historic face-to-face talks hosted by Islamabad — have still not produced a permanent resolution or restored full access to the Strait of Hormuz, choking vast quantities of global oil supply. The impasse has left ordinary Iranians in limbo. "The state of 'neither war nor peace' is far filthier than war itself," 39-year-old Tehran resident Shahrzad told AFP.

"You can't even plan something as simple as signing up for a gym, let alone bigger things... I'm about to start a new job, and I'm scared war might break out again —- that I'll end up leaving the job like before, running off to another city out of fear," she said. *AFP*

Meet on NPT review ends in deadlock

UNITED NATIONS

A UN conference reviewing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty concluded after four weeks of discussions without consensus on an outcome document, as its chair expressed disappointment and concern over the "future health" of the pact. The Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was conducted at the United Nations headquarters from April 27 to May 22.

The review conference was held amidst escalating global tensions between the US, Israel and Iran over Tehran's nuclear programme. "I have to say that I am disappointed that the review conference was unable to reach consensus on an outcome document and really seize this critical opportunity to make our world a safer place," President of the Conference Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations Ambassador Do Hung Viet told reporters at a late evening press conference on Friday. He said member states had some "very good discussions, very honest reflection" on the current situation and the state of the NPT, and what can be done to improve that. "In fact those discussions have provided us with some very good substantive outcomes that unfortunately could not be adopted, but nevertheless are good outcomes," he said. *PTI*

Ukraine drone sparks fire at Russian oil depot

MOSCOW

A Ukrainian drone attack caused a fire at another Russian oil terminal overnight, local officials in Russia's Krasnodar region said on Saturday, in what appeared to be the latest attack on Moscow's vital oil industry.

Authorities in the city of Novorossiysk said falling drone debris sparked a fire at an oil terminal, injuring two people. Russia's *Astra news* outlet said Ukrainian drones struck the Sheskharis oil terminal and depot, the terminus for Russian state-controlled pipeline company Transneft's main oil pipelines in the region. Images posted by Astra appeared to show smoke rising above the oil terminal, but they could not be verified.

On Saturday afternoon, Ukraine's General Staff said its forces had struck the Sheskharis oil terminal overnight. "The facility provides shipment of oil and oil products for export and is involved in meeting the needs of the Russian army," the General Staff wrote on Telegram, adding that Ukrainian forces had also hit a tanker in the Black Sea belonging to Russia's so-called "shadow fleet."

Ukraine has expanded its mid- and long-range strike capabilities, deploying drone and missile technology that it has developed domestically to battle Russia's 4-year-old invasion. Attacks on Russian oil assets that play a key part in funding the invasion have become almost daily occurrences.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a Ukrainian drone strike overnight into Friday on a college dormitory building in Starobilsk, a city in Ukraine's Russia-occupied Luhansk region, rose to 18, the press service of Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations said. According to the ministry, 60 people were wounded in the attack. *AP*

A dormitory of a university college building damaged by Ukrainian drones in Russian-occupied Starobilsk, Ukraine | AP

Israel strikes Lebanon as Hezbollah vows Iran support

BEIRUT

ISRAEL struck south Lebanon on Saturday despite a ceasefire as Hezbollah said its backer Tehran had pledged not to abandon the militant group.

Hezbollah said its chief Naim Qassem had received a message from Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, saying the latest proposal through Pakistani mediators aimed ending the regional war emphasised "the demand to include Lebanon" in the broader ceasefire.

Mourners weep during funeral of victims killed following an Israeli strike, in Deïr Qanoun en Nahr village near Tyre | AFP

Lebanese authorities, however, have insisted the country's ongoing talks with Israel under US auspices must be independent from the Iran-US negotiations. Israel's military has been pounding Lebanon despite an April 17 ceasefire in the country announced by US President Donald Trump, and which was recently extended for several weeks. Hezbollah has also kept up attacks on Israeli targets in south Lebanon and in northern Israel, including targeting Israeli air defence platforms across the border on Saturday. The group said Araghchi's message indicated Iran "will not give up its support" for Hezbollah. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli airstrikes on multiple south Lebanon locations, some after Israel issued evacuation warnings to around 15 villages. *AFP*

Deadly measles outbreak in B'desh kills over 500 kids

DHAKA

A measles outbreak in Bangladesh has killed more than 500 children, government data showed on Saturday, marking the country's deadliest surge in decades of the preventable disease. Hospitals in the capital Dhaka have been overwhelmed with cases and set up dedicated wards to take patients, but are scrambling with a shortage of intensive care beds.

Deaths are still rising, with 13 children dying in the past 24 hours alone, taking the toll from the disaster to 512, according to health department figures since March 15.

The South Asian nation has rolled out a mass vaccination drive to combat the outbreak, and UNICEF country chief Rana Flowers said this week that the campaign has now reached 18 million children.

But the health department said the full impact of the vaccinations would take months to be felt. UNICEF said on Wednesday that gaps in immunisation worsened during and after the chaos of a 2024 uprising that toppled the country's autocratic government, leaving large numbers of children unprotected. Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught. Complications can include brain swelling and severe breathing problems. While the disease can affect anyone, it is most common among children. Health workers say the worst-hit children are often malnourished and from low-income families. Many had missed routine vaccinations or had weakened immunity due to poor nutrition, or both. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

1.28 MILLION JOBS VIA FREE MEAL SCHEME

A nationwide free meals programme has created 1.28 million jobs through more than 29,000 nutrition kitchens, according to official data released on Friday. The initiative provides meals to 62.45 million beneficiaries, including students, toddlers, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Authorities said the programme has boosted economic activity by involving over 142,000 suppliers, including small businesses, cooperatives and village enterprises. President Prabowo said the scheme created jobs and boosted demand for farmers and fishermen.

HISTORIC POST OFFICE REOPENS AS HUB

Kuala Lumpur's 119-year-old General Post Office reopened Saturday as a cultural hub featuring dining, retail and exhibition spaces after a 15-month restoration. The heritage building, part of a wider conservation project involving eight landmarks, drew more than 5,000 visitors on its first day despite heavy rain across the capital city.

CRACKDOWN ON FOREIGN NOMINEE FIRMS

Police launched a second crackdown on suspected foreign nominee businesses on Koh Phangan, raiding 32 companies and uncovering illegal land holdings covering nearly 80 rai. More than 300 officers took part in the operation, which targeted firms accused of violating foreign business and land ownership laws. Authorities arrested 22 foreigners and seized 45 land plots valued at over 200 million baht. One company allegedly used Thai nationals as nominee shareholders to conceal ownership by an Israeli man and was also accused of operating an unlicensed hotel business on the island.

AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD
Registered & Corporate Office: G-129, Phase-III, Spencer Plaza, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002. NHB Reg.No.06.0181.19, website Address: www.ahamhfc.com/ email-id: compliance@ahamhfc.com, Tel: 044-40062651 CIN: U65922TN2017PTC2153589

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for the Sale of Immovable Asset under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, r/w Rule 9(1) of Security Interest Rules, 2002 Rule (8 & 9)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD** the same shall be referred herein after as **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD.** The Secured Assets will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through **https://auctionbazaar.com**

Account No. and Name of borrower, Co-borrower, Mortgagors	Amount Outstanding	Description of the Immovable Property [Secured Asset]	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
Loan Account No. KA/BLR/BLRE/000000045. **1. Mr. Shashi Kumar.N, (Borrower)** **2. Mrs. Veena.M, (Co Borrower)** **Both are residing at** No. 221/03, Lakshmanamma Nilaya, Doddabidarukallu, Near BBMP Office, Nagasandra, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560 073.	**Rs. 21,89,094/- as on 23.05.2026**	All the piece and parcel of property Site No. 01, Katha No. 682, S. No. 19, measuring East to West 27 feet and North to South Eastern Side 27 Ft & Western Side 17 Feet in totally measuring 594 Sq. ft, situated at Doobabidarkallu, Yashavnthpuraa Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits Ward No. 40 of Bangalore, bounded on North by Property belongs to Ramakrishnappa, South by Road, East by Eastern portion of Property No. 1 belongs to Ravikumar & West by property belongs to Ramakrishnappa, measuring East to West 27 Feet and North to South Eastern side 27 feet & western side 17 feet totally measuring 594 Sq.ft.	**Rs. 20,00,000/-** **Rs. 2,00,000/-** **Rs. 25,000/-**

E-auction Date and Time : 12.06.2026 - 11 AM to 12 PM (with unlimited extension of 3 min each)
Last Date of Submission of EMD : 11.06.2026, Date of Inspection of Property : As per the appointment

1. The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider **M/s. Arca Emart Private Limited (Contact Person: Mr.Uthappa, Ph. No. 7799510999, Email:conact@auctionbazaar.com / support@auctionbazaar.com).**
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit: **https://auctionbazaar.com/ & support@auctionbazaar.com** to take part in e-auction or contact **Mr. P Sagar – Ph: 99868 58136& Mr. Pavan Kumar – 6360898505.**

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) RULE 8 & 9 AND OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Date: 23.05.2026 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Chennai **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD**

TRAILBLAZER PILOT

Indian peacekeeper wins UN gender advocate award

UNITED NATIONS

INDIAN peacekeeper serving with the UN mission in Lebanon, Major Abhilasha Barak, has been named the recipient of a prestigious military gender advocate award by the world body. Barak has been honoured with the 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation.

"Proud to announce that Major Abhilasha Barak has been awarded the 2025 @UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. She is being recognised for her outreach and community engagement activities for women and adolescent girls and gender sensitisation training for peacekeepers," the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said in a post on X Friday.

Barak is serving with the Indian Battalion as the Commander of the Female Engagement Team (FET) in UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). She is also the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army. She will be honoured at the UN headquarters when the world body commemorates the International Day of UN Peacekeepers that is marked annually on May 29.

Major Abhilasha Barak

In a moment of pride for India, Barak is the third recipient of the award from the country, following Major Suman Gawani and Major Radhika Sen, who were honoured for their commendable work while serving in UN Peacekeeping missions.

Gawani had served with the UN Mission in South Sudan and was a co-recipient of the 2019 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award alongside Brazilian naval officer Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo. Major Radhika Sen, who served with the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), received the prestigious 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. *PTI*

51,000 appointment letters distributed by PM Modi on Saturday to newly-recruited youth across the country through video conferencing during 19th Rozgar Mela

VIP Industries' revival plan meets market reality

Company continues to report weak performance in Q4FY26 as its losses widen to ₹128.80 cr from ₹32.63 cr in Q4FY25 due to high provisions and falling sales

SANAL SUDEVAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S largest luggage-maker, VIP Industries, which is in the middle of a major restructuring and clean-up exercise under new management, is finding the road to revival difficult. The company, founded in 1971 by Dilip Piramal and now chaired by Renuka Ramnath as non-executive chairperson, continued to report weak performance in Q4FY26 as its losses widened to ₹128.80 crore from ₹32.63 crore in the March quarter of FY25 due to high provisions and falling sales. The company reported provisions of nearly ₹130 crore in FY26 to clean up slow-moving and obsolete inventory.

Its revenue fell 14% in FY26 to ₹1,858 crore from ₹2,178 crore in FY25. Consolidated net loss widened sharply to ₹338 crore in FY26 from ₹68.8 crore in FY25. Cash and cash equivalents also declined to ₹31.71 crore from ₹37.96 crore a year ago, while total equity fell sharply to ₹289.5 crore from ₹616 crore due to continued losses.

However, there are signs of improvement. The luggage maker reduced its overall debt to ₹410.75 crore in FY26 from ₹415.25 crore in FY25, while net debt declined to ₹295 crore from ₹367 crore last year. Analysts expect debt levels in FY27 to remain broadly stable.

With stock-keeping units reduced by 25-30% during the year, lowering inventory maintenance costs, and debt levels expected to remain under control, the company is hoping to revive the brand in the current financial year.

For decades, VIP Industries dominated India's luggage market. However, in recent years, the company has seen its market share erode rapidly amid growing competition from rivals such as Samsonite and Safari Industries, as well as digital-first brands like Mokobara. As per the company's FY25 investor presentation, VIP's market share fell from 40% in 2021 to 35% by March 2025, while Safari and Samsonite narrowed the gap with market shares of 32% and 33%, respectively.

Back story

The Piramal family built VIP Industries over nearly six decades. However, in the second half of 2025, Dilip Piramal sold a 32% controlling stake in the company to private equity firm Multiples Alternate Asset Management. The PE fund, along with Mithun Sacheti, subsequently acquired another 26% stake from public shareholders in a deal valued at ₹1,763 crore. The ownership change followed a prolonged slowdown in the company's performance. For several years, the company's day-to-day operations were led by Radhika Piramal, who joined the business in 2010 at the age of 31. At the time, the company's market share had already declined to just over 50%, from nearly 80% in the 1990s.

During her tenure, Radhika introduced several strategic changes. She relaunched the Skybags brand with vibrant designs aimed at younger consumers and introduced Caprese, a premium women's handbag brand, in 2012. Caprese went on to generate ₹100 crore in sales by 2018.

However, after Radhika stepped down in 2017, the company struggled to maintain momentum, allowing competitors like Safari and Samsonite to gain ground. It also misread changing consumer preferences. As demand shifted towards durable hard luggage, VIP continued to stock large volumes of soft luggage across its outlets and warehouses.

Atul Jain, the current managing director appointed after Multiples acquired the company, acknowledged this strategic misstep. "The company didn't fully sense the growing demand for hard luggage at the time, and our outlets and warehouses were largely filled with soft luggage," he said recently.

However, when TNIE contacted, VIP Industries refused to speak on the matter.

Leadership churn added to the challenges. Sudip Ghose (2019–21) and Anindya Dutta (2021–23) exited the company in quick succession, creating uncertainty. Following their departures, then chief financial officer Neetu Kashiramka served as managing director until November 2025.

One of the company's major fault lines — high inventory levels — has also started easing. Inventory levels declined from ₹698 crore in FY25 to ₹472 crore in Q4FY26, indicating efforts to improve operational efficiency.

During the Q4FY25 earnings call, Kashiramka acknowledged pressure on profitability. She said, "Profitability was definitely a challenge during the year, mainly gross margin, which was impacted by downward pressure on selling prices, inventory provisions, and netting off of price support for e-commerce channels."

The current management believes the company's decline was sharp and that the recovery, too, will take time. It acknowledged that VIP was carrying bloated inventories of finished goods and raw materials worth nearly ₹700 crore until September 2025. Channel partners were saddled with slow-moving designs sold at deep discounts without pricing discipline, while weak distributor communication and supply-chain inefficiencies further hurt business.

Another drag on profitability was the Bangladesh manufacturing facility, which remained under-utilised and loss-making for a prolonged period. It is now increasing its focus on production from Bangladesh as exports from the neighbouring country are cheaper, while its Nashik facility is operating at near-full capacity.

The company's sales have been declining for the past two years, though its investor presentation shows it has managed to arrest de-growth in offline sales to some extent. VIP Industries' revenue fell from ₹994 crore in the first half of FY26 to ₹884 crore in the second half, a decline of 10%.

The luggage maker claims it has curtailed de-growth in offline sales, reporting a lower decline in H2FY26 as against H1FY26. It is aiming to contain the slowdown in online sales as well. In H1FY26, offline revenue fell to ₹750 crore, while in the second half it declined further to ₹725 crore, as per a report by PL Capital.

Revival strategy

As part of its revival strategy, VIP is stepping up marketing and brand visibility. Skybags has become the official luggage partner of the Chennai Super Kings, a move aimed at connecting with younger consumers.

The company is also focusing on premium products and expanding its presence across online and offline channels. Its manufacturing plant in Nashik produces about 7.5 lakh units per month and is currently operating close to full capacity. The company is also betting on the backpack segment, where nearly 70% of the market continues to be dominated by unorganised players.

With its Bangladesh manufacturing unit reporting EBITDA of ₹9 crore and its contribution to overall sales rising to 22.6% in Q4 FY26 from 16.5% in Q3FY26, the luggage maker now has a stronger base to accelerate growth, provided it continues to introduce attractive products and refresh designs regularly.

In a recent note, brokerage house Motilal Oswal Financial Services said it expects VIP to gain market share and deliver industry-beating growth, supported by product upgrades featuring innovations such as the Smart Bag-Tag, rationalisation of low-return stores, and a turnaround in the Bangladesh plant.

Elara Capital, in a note, said margin pressures for the company have peaked and that it sees recovery ahead. The brokerage has given a "Buy" rating on the stock with a target price of ₹361 against the last traded price of ₹302. The stock has gained over 8% in the last five trading sessions.

The company will also have to chalk out a new strategy after losing the right to sell Carlton bags in India from June 1, following a January 2026 Supreme Court judgment that allowed it to continue sales for four months. Rival Safari Industries signed a 20-year licensing agreement with Carlton Retail Pvt Ltd in February.

With mounting losses, sharp inventory correction and rising competition from peers, VIP Industries faces a long and difficult road to recovery, requiring sustained operational improvements and sharper execution in the coming quarters.

Timeline

ORIGINS

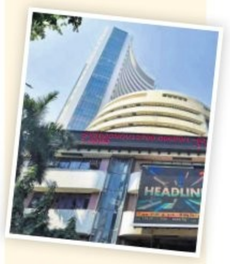
1968: Incorporated as Aristo Plast by Dilip Piramal

1971: Renamed VIP Industries

1973: Dilip Piramal assumes control, beginning a **50**-year family stewardship of the business

EXPANSION ERA

1989: Listed on Indian stock exchanges



1992: Company goes international, builds distribution networks across **27+** countries

2004: Acquires UK brand Carlton Travel Goods

2008: Merges Aristocrat into the group

2009: Radhika Piramal, Dilip's daughter, joins as Executive Director. Named MD in 2010

2011: Skybags launched targeting youth and hypermarket channels. Skybags eventually grows to contribute ₹33% of VIP's total revenue

2017: Bangladesh manufacturing base established

2022–23: Company records peak revenue of ₹2,082 Cr revenue as travel rebounds sharply

2022–23: Company records peak revenue of ₹2,082 Cr revenue as travel rebounds sharply

2022–23: Company records peak revenue of ₹2,082 Cr revenue as travel rebounds sharply

TURBULENCE

Jan 2023: A major fire destroys plant and equipment at VIP Industries' Bangladesh plant

Late 2023: MD Anindya Dutta resigns abruptly. CFO Neetu Kashiramka is elevated to the MD role

May 2025: Guwahati warehouse fire damaging ₹5.07 Cr in property and inventory lost. Insurance claim of ₹4.57 Cr partially recovered in subsequent quarters

Gokaldas Exports sees 32% drop in net profit in Q4

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

HIGHER tariffs on textile exports to the US-led Bengaluru-based apparel manufacturer Gokaldas Exports to report a 32% fall in net profit in the January-March quarter of FY26. Net profit fell to ₹36 crore in Q4FY26, down from ₹53 crore in the previous year.

The company on Saturday reported a 4% year-on-year growth in its consolidated total income for the financial year 2025-26, reaching ₹4,065 crore compared to ₹3,917 crore in the previous fiscal year.

The apparel manufacturer managed to largely protect its operating margins during the year despite facing external disruptions, including penal US tariffs and volatile geopolitical events.

For the full financial year, the company's EBITDA stood at Rs 434 crore with an operating margin of 10.7%, reflecting a marginal softening of 15 basis points year-on-year due to tariff headwinds.

Govt kickstarts ₹33,660 cr scheme for industrial parks

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

COMMERCE minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday unveiled detailed guidelines for the ₹33,660 crore BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana) scheme, under which 100 industrial parks will be developed across the country in collaboration with state governments and private players to boost manufacturing and investments.

The minister announced that the Centre has started inviting proposals from states for the first phase of the programme. During the first two-month window, applications for 20 industrial parks will be invited, followed by another round for 30 additional parks over the subsequent two months. In total, the Centre aims to receive 50 proposals from states in next four months through the two application windows.

"We are inviting applications from the states/UTs over the next four months. We are looking for proposals for 50 industrial parks so that we can quickly start rolling out the scheme across country," Goyal said.

We are inviting applications from the states/UTs over the next four months. States will provide land. The Centre will either provide ₹1 crore per acre or the market valuation of the land, whichever is lower.

Piyush Goyal, Union commerce and industry minister

The scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet in March, seeks to create plug-and-play industrial zones with ready infrastructure through a joint initiative of the Centre, states and private players, aimed at attracting domestic and global manufacturers.

As per the government, the parks will span areas ranging from 100 acres to 1,000 acres.

The Centre will provide financial support of up to ₹1 crore per acre, or the prevailing market valuation of land in the respective state, whichever is lower, for infrastructure development. "States will provide land. The Centre will either provide ₹1 crore per acre or the market valuation of the land, whichever is lower," Goyal added.

EXPANSION STRATEGY

DeVans sees beer volume growth after Maha entry

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DEVANS Modern Breweries, the maker of Godfather and Six Fields branded beer, expects beer volumes to remain robust following its entry into Maharashtra and plans to boost production through strategic partnerships. The Jammu-based company also anticipates stronger growth in premium segments and is preparing to enter the fast-growing gin category.

In an interaction with TNIE, Prem Dewan, Chairman and MD of Devans Modern Breweries said that total beer sales for them have increased from 38,174 KL in FY22 to 96,893 KL in FY26, reflecting a growth of more than 250% during the period. The increase was supported by production strategy through production partnerships rather than setting up any additional production units. The process of increasing production has already commenced this month at Privilege Industries in Maharashtra. Further, it is considering at least one more production tie-up this year which would further increase beer output," said Dewan.

DeVans is one of India's largest beer manufacturers and competes with global players like United Breweries (maker of Kingfisher) and AB InBev (producer of Budweiser and Corona). Along with Carlsberg, these companies control the majority of beer production, distribution and sales nationwide.

Most domestic and foreign players are bullish on India as the alcohol industry in FY26 is likely to have grown by 8-10% to about ₹5.3 lakh crore in revenue, or $61.97 billion, as per a Crisil report.

UK minister to visit India to address steel safeguard issues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

UNION commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday confirmed that UK trade minister Chris Bryant will be visiting India on June 2 to resolve the pending issues related to the proposed India-UK free trade agreement (FTA), with special a focus on recent steel import safeguard measures implemented by the UK.

While the FTA between the countries were signed in July 2025 with the aim of implementing the agreement by the end of May 2026, the recent import restrictions on steel has become a roadblock. In March, the UK unveiled stricter regulations to protect its domestic steel industry, slashing tariff-free import quotas by 60%. Imports exceeding the revised quotas would attract a steep 50% duty from July onwards.

India has flagged concerns in a key meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva over the UK's recent steel safeguard measures. According to the UK government, the import restriction measures are legitimate industrial protection against global overcapacity and security concerns.

Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal had previously told the media that the UK came ahead with a steel measure recently, which was not factored in while negotiating the FTA and thus both sides are working on a 'unique creative solution' to address concerns over the new steel restrictions so that the agreement can be implemented at the earliest.

India has already conveyed its reservations over the UK's safeguard measures, arguing that the move could adversely impact Indian steel shipments despite ongoing efforts by both sides to deepen trade ties.

Business & Beyond

Indian Bank Sambalpur Zone Organised Mega Credit Camp

Sambalpur: Indian Bank Sambalpur Zone has Organized Mega Credit Camp to Boost Retail and MSME Growth under the chairmanship of Chief General Manager, Sujay Mallik, Corporate office Chennai. Indian Bank, Sambalpur Zone, organized a Mega Credit Camp aimed at promoting financial inclusion and extending credit support to various sectors including MSMEs, retail aspiring entrepreneurs. The program saw participation from customers, business owners and representatives from various institutions. During the camp, eligible applicants were guided regarding different loan schemes and financial products tailored to support economic growth and self-employment opportunities.

Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited report record operating incomes

Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port recorded highest-ever combined cargo throughput of 107 million tonne (MT), surpassing FY25 landmark throughput of 103.37 MT. Both ports posted record operating incomes, combined income from operations soared past ₹2,400 crore.

Goa takes PM's Flexible Work vision to the Beach with Shackathon

Baga: Positioning the state as India's premier emerging workation destination, the first-ever 'Goa Shackathon' kicked off at Baga beach, North Goa. The two-day event, organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) and the Startup; IT Promotion Cell (SITPC), brought together a diverse community of startup founders, digital nomads, creators, designers and students to showcase the unique concept of 'Work from Goa' where intensive work blends with coastal recreation. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, along with Minister for Tourism & IT, Electronics & Communications, Rohan Khaunte.

Central Bank of India organises credit campaign

With an objective to reach out and empower every customer with easy, affordable, hassle free & tailor made retail loan solutions, Central Bank of India launched a Mega Retail Credit Outreach Campaign on 22.05.2026 across the nation. Simultaneously, Bhubaneswar Region also organised a Retail Credit Outreach Campaign at Durene Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar. The programme was held in august presence of Jagadish Prasad Naik, MD, DN homes , Rudra Samantaray, MD Trupti Motors Shashidhar K , Corporate General Manager, Central Bank of India, Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh, Regional Head , Bhubaneswar Region & Gajanan Bhoi, Dy Regional Head along with other Senior Bank officials .

UJVN LTD.

H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No.:U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website.: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No 431 **Corrigendum No.15 (Time Extension)** Dated 22.05.2026

e-Tender No. 01/DGM (E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26 invited by office of the Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-II, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission of bid on e-portal:30.05.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of Original document (Hard copies) : 04.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of Technical bid on e-portal : 06.06.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.
Other terms & condition shall remain same. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "**http://uktenders.gov.in**".

Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-II)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE.No. SR-TVCOSnT (TEND) /3/2026/06, Dated: 22.05.2026

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tenders for the following works.

Sl No.	Tender No.	Name of work
1	TVC-SNT-SIG-26-27-01	Provision of S&T arrangements in connection with provision of Track Machine Siding at KOLLAM & KAYANKULAM stations and proposed extension of shunting neck at THRISSUR stations of TVC division.

Sl No.	Cash Value (Approx.) (₹.Ps)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Last Date for Receipt of Tender	Completion period
1	25089671.52	501800.00	15.06.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs	09 months.

Complete details & tender document will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/TVC.

E-mail ID: - dpcsndgssa.opepa@nic.in

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE,
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, SUNDARGARH
"e"-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No- DPC/SS/SNG/13 of 2026-27
Letter No: -1453/Civil/ Date: - 22nd May 2026

1.	District Project Co-ordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Sundargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Double cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licenses for **"Improvement of Infrastructure (Civil +Electrical +PH +Renovation)** in Hostel Buildings" as detailed in DTCN.		
2.	Nature of Work	:-	Improvement of Infrastructure (Civil + Electrical + PH + Repair & Renovation) in Hostel Buildings.
3.	No. of works	:-	**21 (Twenty-One).**
4.	Cost of Tender Paper	:-	**₹10,000/-**
5.	Class of Contractor	:-	**"A" & "SPECIAL" In 6 Projects / "A" In 15 projects**
6.	Availability of bid documents on the website	:-	**From 09.00 Hours, Date: 25th May 2026 to 17.00 Hours, Date:16th June 2026**
7.	Date of opening of Bid	:-	**17.30 Hours, Date: 16th June 2026**
8.	The bidders have to participate in ON-LINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **(https://tendersodisha.gov.in).** Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

District Project Coordinator,
Samagra Shiksha, Sundargarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri.Lalchand Kumahar S/o Kumbharam R/a. # 11, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Complex, Basaveswara Layout, Nagasettihalli, Bangalore..
We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Title deeds Near LIC HFL, Yelahanka Branch, on 23rd May 2026. The Document of title Original Title deeds with respect to Site No.64 measuring (35X30) feet situated at Srinivasapura village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, bearing 1)Doc No.5434/2013-14 dated 29/08/2013, 2) Doc No.4206/2014-15 dated 25/08/2014 and 3) Doc No.4207/2014-15 dated 25/08/2014, registered in the office of the SRO, Yelahanka, Further Police complaint has been lodged on 23/05/2026 in Online bearing Lost Report. No.2218107/2026 to this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim/in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed within 14 days failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE
Bangalore Mob: 9886628181

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on X @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice Nos. C/E. 29/Elec/M/SC/07/PA/OT/2026-27 & C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/08/LC-S&T/ OT/2026-27 Dt. 22.05.2026

PUB/297/26

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to **15.00 hours on 12.06.2026**

S.No.: 1, **e-Tender No.:** C/E.29/Elec/ M/SC/07/PA/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-07-OT-2026-27, **Name of Work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department : (i) Rehabitation of Station Building at CTF (ii) Rehabitation of Station Building at GDQ (iii) CTF - Raising of PF 1 & PF 2 from Rail level to High level, Provision of COP and passenger amenities at Chitgidda station under ADEN/VKB sub-division (iv) SKP - Raising of PF 1 & PF 2 to High level, Provision of COP, Pathway connecting platforms and passenger (v) Upgrading of COP by providing SS gutters and new sheeting to arrest leakages at stations under Sr. DEN/West/SC jurisdiction (vi) Proposed Raising of Platform No. 2 to High level at Seram amenities at Shankarpalli station (vii) Borabanda - Development of second entry at Borabanda Railway station - Electrical arrangements. **Tender Value (Rs.):** 2,66,07,634.70, **EMD (Rs.):** 5,32,200.00, **CTF (Rs.):** 0.00, **Completion period:** 6 Months

S.No.: 2, **e-Tender No.:** C/E.29/ Elec/M/SC/08/LC-S&T/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-08-OT-2026-27, **Name of Work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department – (i) Signaling arrangement in connection with Interlocking of three (3) number of LC gates (LC. No. 1 between PDPL-STBD), LC No. 40 (NPML-LPJL) of NZB - PDPL section and LC No 97 (CKX-JOA) of VKB-PRLI section on SC Division (ii) Renovation of Signal Control room at SC division (iii) Signaling arrangements for strengthening of power supply at Raghavapuram (RGPM) and Peddampet (PPZ) station -Electrical Arrangements. **Tender Value (Rs.):** 71,18,713.50, **EMD (Rs.):** 1,42,400.00, **CTF (Rs.):** 0.00, **Completion period:** 6 Months

1. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **"www.ireps.gov.in"** which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.
2. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr. DEE(Maintenance), Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.
3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ Secunderabad

Tender Notice No.08/2026 Dt. 21.05.2026.

PUB/305/26

Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice:- The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On **www.ireps.gov.in.**"

Sno/ Tender no	Brief Description
31261200	One Coach Set of Air Spring
66266672	Supply, installation & Commissioning of UABAMS for train Set
38262120	OH kit for Constant Contact Polymer Side Bearer
38262312	PU lining (top and bottom)
29261558	Set of inlet & Discharge Valve Assembly
66259063	Wheel 730 MM 164 dia (complete Forged as per RDSO Specification of IRS R19/93)
38262285	'K' Type Composition Brake Block
38262311	Poly Rings for Constant Contact PU Side Bearer Pad
31263255	YAW Damper for Vande Bharat Train
31263257	Primary Vertical Damper for Vande Bharat Train
31263256	Secondary Vertical Damper
31263270	HORIZONTAL Damper for Vande Bharat Train
33261136	Axle Box Pivot Bush
33261135	Pad for Secondary Suspension for LHB Fiat Bogie
38262391	Primary Brake Beam for BMBS
85265083	Bearing as per Plasser part No.UD62.5610DB/F
66266664	Stone 10v STD; 10.23OD X6.00IDX3.25 As per LORAM Part No; 144591

Note: Due dates of Tender Opening
SL. No. 01 on dt. 01.06.2026. SL. No. 02 & 03 on dt. 09.06.2026. SL. No. 04 dt. 10.06.2026. SL. No. 05 on dt. 11.06.2026. SL. No. 06 to 10 on dt 15.06.2026. SL. No. 11 & 12 on dt. 16.06.2026 SL. No. 13 & 14 on dt. 18.06.2026. SL. No. 15 on dt. 19.06.2026 SL. No. 16 on dt. 22.06.2026. SL. No. 17 on dt. 23.06.2026.

Corrigendum
Tender Notice No.06/2026 dt. 08.05.2026 Tender No.6026PT020 due on 26.05.2026 may be read as Due on; 03.06.2026.
Tender Notice No.04/2026 dt. 24.04.2026 Tender No.33265005A due on 18.05.2026 may be read as Due on; 28.05.2026
Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad
A361

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The notice is hereby given to public that our client Mrs.Nasima Banu has lost original registered sale deed bearing doc.no. 5138/2006-07 and 5804/ 2016-17. It is hereby informed to the public that in case any of them finds the same can contact on the below mentioned address or phone number.

SCHEDULE:
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.04, Khatha No.4 Later Khatha No.348/341 New V.P.Khatha No.348/341/4, Situated at Kambipura Village Kumbalagodu Village Panchayath, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 20x30ft and bounded on the:- East by :Property No.05, West by :Property No.03, North by :18ft Road., South by : Property belongs Sri.Rabiyabi.

V.L. Associates Advocates
No.56, Out house, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010. Ph: 9481900851/ 9743323668.
Place: Bangalore Date:23.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client **Nagaraju K R** S/o. Rangaarasaiah R/at: #15A, Near Aralimara, Kenganahalli, Shivanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 562123 to bring to the notice of the general public that the original Hakku Patra vide order number DPC/15/DRH granted on 12-06-1972, are lost/ misplaced.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned documents, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of **Site No.09,** measuring East to West **30 feet,** North to South **45 feet,** totally measuring **1350 Square Feet,** formed in Survey No.19, having Khatha No.150200200400220039, Property No.152/9, situated at **Kenganahalli Village, Kithanahalli Grama Panchayat, Dasanapura Hobli, Nelamangala, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. bounded on :**
East by : Site no.8
West by : Site no.10
North by : Site no.16
South by : Road

(VINOD.M)
M/s. PRAGYA LEGAL, Advocates,
No. 25/1, Anandnivas, 3rd cross,
6th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.
Mobile: 8861088313
Email: mvinod.9161@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR

E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 11/2026-27

No-2218 /Date- 19.05.2026

34001/242/2627: The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in :https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.28.05.2026 at 05.00 P.M.** to **dt.12.06.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **dt.16.06.2026** at **11.30 A.M.** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR
OIPR-34001/34006/1/26-27/0011

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking) Office of the Executive Engineer, Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony, H.D Kote Taluk, Mysore District-571116
Phone /Fax: 08228-268378
Email:xekrdhdk@yahoo.com

Short Term Tender Notification No:03/2026-27, Dated:15-05-2026. (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rates tenders are invited on KPPP basis on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible registered contractors for a total 03 numbers of works with a minimum value of Rs.1.90 Lakh and maximum value of **Rs.4229.19 Lakh**. The contractors can have access/ download KPPP tender document from **15.05.2026** onwards and last date to submitt the filled tender document is **29.05.2026** till 5.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on **30.05.2026** at 5.00 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after approval of the Technical Bid. All the information is available on KPPP web-site address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp.** Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony.

DIPR/DDMYS/195/KSMCA/164/2026-27

QuoteExpress **WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS ›** GORDON B HINCKLEY

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

No.2635 /Date.14.05.2026

25001/227/2627 **e-Procurement Notice for Road Works**

1	Name of the Work	:	Road Works under Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY)
2	Total No. of works	:	20 Nos. of Road works for the year 2026-27
3	Estimated Cost of the work	:	Varies from Rs.103.89 lakh to Rs.279.24 lakh
4	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs. Rs.20.00 lakh up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.	:	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores.	:	A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore up to Rs. 50.00 Crores.	:	Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	d) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Crores	:	Super Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5	Period of completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line ' for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender- Online- C.C.08 of 2026	30.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	16.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	17.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-25001/25082/1/26-27/0007

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
CYBER SECURITY WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/ 2026/05. Name of Work**: Implementation of Cyber Security & upgradation of SCADA System of Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Estimated cost**: Rs.14,85,05,967.55. **Bid Security**: Rs. 29,70,100/-. **Completion Period**: 24 months. **Validity of offer**: 90 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website**: 17.06.2026 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),,
AK/Sur-34 Central Railway, Solapur

Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. PROJECT-SWR-TL-THN-30MVA
Dated : 20-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of the following works for arranging power supply to an extent of 30MVA (inclusive of connected 5MVA)on EHT basis in favour of Divisional Railway Manager, Traction & Distribution,South Western Railway, Mysuru Division for railway traction s/s at Tholahunse railway station RTSS : **(i)** 1 no. of additional line Terminal Bay's at 220/66kV SRS Davangere Sub-station **(ii)** 66 kV 630Sqmm Single Circuit UG Cable from 220/66kV SRS Davangere S/S to Tholahunse RTSS for a route length of 7.840 km	**Rs. 45,33,49,959.29**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 12-06-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer
Project / Bengaluru

PUB/155/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my Client **KIRAN KUMAR.L.,** Son of Lakshhmana.D. is the absolute owner of the Immovable Property bearing Number : 196, Khatha No. 47, Hogasandra Dhakale, Begur Hobli, Bandepalya, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring EAST TO WEST 30 FEET, NORTH TO SOUTH 20 FEET, BOUNDED ON EAST BY : PRIVATE PROPERTY, WEST BY : PRIVATE PROPERTY, NORTH BY ROAD, SOUTH BY ROAD and my Client has lost the Original Hakku Patra (Possession Certificate) on the name of PARVATHI wife of BHEEMAN issued on 21/05/1992 issued by TAHSILDAR, BENGALURU SOUTH TALUK, BENGALURU for which my client has filed complaint before Karnataka State Police, in vide LOST REPORT NO. 2216587/2026 dated 22/05/2026, if any person found the same shall handover or if any person have any claim over the same shall inform the to the undersigned Advocate in 07 days from the date of this Publication, thereafter any claim will not binding on my Client.

Sd/- **S.V.VENKATESH,** ADVOCATE
No.75/A, 1ST MAIN, 15TH CROSS, MARUTHI NAGAR, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU-560064, MOBILE : 7760113411 / 9986022707,
DATE :22/05/2026

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH- 36)

P & SC No. 550/2025

Between:
Sri. Purnachandra.C,
Son of late Channaraju H.P,
Aged about 39 years, Residing at No.2, Building SHIG C1, Shiva Mandira Road, 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064 **...Petitioner**
AND: NIL ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the above named petitioner has filed a petition under section 372 of Indian Succession Act, praying for grant of Succession Certificate, ie., succeeding to the estates of Late Gayathri, who died on 30.08.2024. The above case was dismissed for non prosecution, thereafter a Misc petition No.70/2026 was filed to set aside the dismissal order and to restore the same before this Hon'ble court. After considering the facts pleaded and documents produced by the Petitioner, was pleased to set aside and restored the above case before this Hon'ble court.
Any person having their objection/s for issue of Succession Certificate for receiving the amount/benefits of deceased Smt. Gayathri .V and any person having interest may cause the same by appearing before the court in person or through their Advocate on **12.06.2026 at 11.00 AM** failing which the this matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble court on 18.05.2026. **By order of the Court**

***Sd/-* Sheristhedar**
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner:
Sri. K Tamilvanan,
Advocate and Associates,
No.751, 2nd Floor, 60th Cross,5th Block, Rajajinanar Bashvam Circle, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **M/s.V.S.R. DEVELOPERS** Represented by their managing Partners **Sri. REDDEPPA REDDY OBULU and Sri. ARAVA TATHIREDDY VENKATASIVA REDDY**
intended to develop the following Properties through Joint Venture basis for construction of multistoried Residential Apartment building /Villaments

ITEM NO.I
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.165/1,** Measuring an extent of **0-241/2 (Twenty Four and Half) Guntas,** Situated at **HALASAHALLI THIPPASANDRA Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on;
East by : Land belonging to Smt.Puttamma and Sri.H.A.Narayanareddy; **West by :** Land belonging to Gunjuru Sri.Ramaiah Reddy; **North by :** Land in Sy.No.165/11 belonging to Sri.H.N.Dasharathakumar; **South by :** Land belonging to Sy.No.165/10 Belonging to Sri.H.N.Dasharathakumar;

ITEM No.II
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing **Present Sy.No.165/10, Old Sy.No.165/1,** Measuring an extent of **0-241/2 (Twenty Four and Half) Guntas,** Situated at **HALASAHALLI THIPPASANDRA Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on;
East by : Land belonging to Smt.Puttamma, **West by :** Land belonging to Gunjuru Sri.Ramaiah Reddy; **North by :** Land in Sy.No.165/1 belonging to Sri.H.N. Dasharathakumar; **South by :** Land in Sy.No.165/2;

ITEM No.III
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing **Present Sy.No.165/11, Old Sy.No.165/1,** Measuring an extent of **0-24 1/2 (Twenty Four and Half) Guntas,** Situated at **HALASAHALLI THIPPASANDRA Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on;
East by : Land belonging to Sri. H.A.Narayanareddy; **West by :** Land belonging to Gunjuru Sri.Ramaiah Reddy; **North by :** Land in Sy.No.165/12 ; **South by :** Land in Sy.No.165/1 belonging to Sri.H.N.Dasharathakumar;
From the present Owners viz., **Sri. DASHARATHA KUMAR H N, Smt. SAVITHA S and Sri. HITESH REDDY H D**
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. It shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,
Advocate, SNN Associates,
No.248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main,
1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout,
Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043,
Land Mark – Near Horamavu Signal,
Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM.
M : 9448089804 & 7676018010

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST OF DOCUMENT
My Client Sri. RAMACHANDRA .C, aged about 68 years, S/o. Late. B. R. Chikaana, Residing at No. 182, 1st and 2nd Main Road, near Keshava Shilpa Sameerpuram, Kempegowdanagar, Bengaluru-560 019, Having **Aadhar No.2179 7782 0051**, has irretrievable **lost the BBMP Khata and original SALE DEED dated 19-01-1944, registered as Document No.2371/43-44, of Book-I, in Volume 666, at Pages 231 to 234, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore city.** My Client has lodged a Police Complaint for lost article on 22.05.2026, under acknowledgement issued by the Bangalore City Police, bearing SL No. 2216675, Lost Report No.2216675/2026.
If any person/s found the **SALE DEED dated 19-01-1944** please come forward with in a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded, if anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 7 days from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

DHIRAJ KUMAR JAIN, ADVOCATE
D-5 & 6, 4th Floor, Sakalajee Market,
Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 002.
Mobile No. 9916971407
Mobile No. 8150000148
Date : 25-05-2026 Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. Byju P.M,** residing at No. #504, C Suraj Ganga Socrates, Kanakapura Road, Vajarahalli, Thalaghattapura, Bangalore – 560109., has negotiated the purchase of the immovable property from its present owner **Smt. Aishya Ambreen,** residing at No. MIG 35, 2nd stage, Kuvempunagar, Mandya, Karnataka 571401.
If any person/s, Bank/Society /Firm or anybody having any right, title, interest or claims over the below mentioned property, may lodge his/her/their/claims if any in writing with authenticated documentary evidence, to the undersigned **within Ten days** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, falling which it shall be construed by our client that there are no claims/objections of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule property and the intended transaction will be finalized by our client as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned and our client will go ahead with the intended sale transaction in respect of the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the vacant Site No.43, old Katha No.239, New Katha No.240, New BBMP Katha No.604/240/43, situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Kengeri Subdivision Ward No.159 and measuring East to West: 30-0 feet and North to South: 40-0 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq. feet and bounded as follows:
East by : Site No.44,
West by : Site No.42,
North by : Site No.34,
South by : Road.

CHANDRIKA P. SHETTY, Advocate
No.22, Ground Floor, Tata Silk Farm
near Yediyur Lake, Kanakapura Road,
Bangalore-04.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my clients are intending to purchase the Schedule Property more fully described hereunder from its absolute owner Sri L. V. Ramesh Babu, S/o Late Sri L. S. Venkoba Rao, residing at No. 5, Bugle Rock Road, Opposite Cosmos Bank, Above Lotus Tailor, 2nd Floor, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560004.
The said owner claims title, possession and ownership rights over the Schedule Property and has represented that the same is free from all encumbrances, attachments, acquisitions, litigations, claims and demands of whatsoever nature.
Therefore, any person/s, institution/s, bank/s, financial institution/s or entity claiming any right, title, interest, share, claim, demand or objection over the Schedule Property or any portion thereof by way of sale, agreement to sell, mortgage, charge, lien, lease, tenancy, Sub-tenancy, easement, gift, inheritance, succession, maintenance, trust, attachment, decree, injunction, acquisition proceedings, lis pendens, family arrangement, development rights, power of attorney, possession, encumbrance or otherwise howsoever, are hereby called upon to notify the same in writing to the undersigned along with certified / supporting documentary proof within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If no objections or claims are received within the aforesaid period, it shall be presumed that no person has any claim, right, title, interest or objection over the Schedule Property and my clients shall proceed with the proposed transaction, subject to verification of title documents and applicable laws. Any claims or objections received thereafter shall be treated as waived insofar as the proposed purchasers are concerned, without prejudice to the rights of my clients under law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the commercial shops bearing Nos. 148 and 149, having Old PID Nos. 49-64-148 and 49-64-149, New Municipal Nos. 8/1-148 and 8/2-149, and BBMP E-PID Nos. 9120085971 and 4210002489, together with undivided 1/4th share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in Property Nos. 56 to 59, situated at Dr. D. V. Gundappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, coming within BBMP Ward / Corporation Division No. 49.
The Schedule Property measuring:
East to West : 11 feet 3 inches
North to South : 20 feet 8 inches
Bounded on:
East by : DVG Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Private Property
South by : Private Property

Place: Bengaluru **Date:** 24-05-2026
Sd/-
H.K.Shivaraju & Associates Advocates
No. 2213 (Old No. 336),10th 'A' Main Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block,Bengaluru – 560011
Ph: 9901470372 / 9980569603 / 9341246770

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **S K Navyashree,** D/o Mr Kanthamurthy S V, residing at No. C42, Sarige Street, Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562125. I State that my name in **"S K Navyashree"** as appearing in Aadhaar Card and **"Sarjapura Kanthamurthy Navyashree"** appearing in Passport are all one and the same person. Hereafter my name will be known as **NAVYASHREE S K** for all the purpose vide affidavit dated 22.05.2026, sworn before notary Mrs. H. Roopa G Bhandare.

***Sd/-* NAVYASHREE S K**

WESTERN RAILWAY

FLASH BUTT WELDING OF RAILS

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites **E-Tender Notice No: BCT/26-27/43 dt.20/05/2026. Work and Location:** Flash Butt Welding of Rails in connection with various sanctioned track works under DEN Central Mumbai Central. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 10,85,95,908.46. **EMD:** ₹ 21,71,900/-. **Date & Time of Submission:** Till 16.06.2026, 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** On 16.06.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** 0145

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice B-SG-P-SBC-CCTV_YARD Dated:11-05-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of Work	Approx. Value
1. South Western Railway-Bengaluru-Division: Provision of CCTV coverage in yard area, mainline points and crossings at vulnerable station (ie Banaswadi, Mulanur, Patchur, Somanayakkanpatti, Sivadi, Toppur, Karuvalli, Omalur, Krishnarajapurm, Whitefield, Baiyyappanahalli, Ramanagaram, Nayandahalli, Hejjala, Yeliyur, Chikbanavar, Sampige Road, & Shantigrama) at Bengaluru Division. **2. South Western Railway- Bengaluru Division:** Provision of CCTV camera at 17 locations of RPF office (Bengaluru, Yasvantpur, Tumakuru, Mandya, Dharmapuri, Bengaluru Cant, Yelahanka, Hindupur, Sri Sathya Sai Prasanti Nilayam, Channasandra, Baiyyappanahalli, Krishnarajapurm, Krishnarajapurm/DSL, Whitefield, Devangonthi, Bangarapet & CIB/Bengaluru). **3. South Western Railway- Mysuru Division:** Provision of CCTV surveillance systems at yard main line crossing areas of Hassan, Arsikere, Kadur, Birur, Chikjajur, Davangere, Amaravathi Colony, Harihar, Ranibennur, Haveri, Bhadravati, Shivamogga Town & Byadrahalli railway stations. **4. South Western Railway- Hubballi Division:** Provision of CCTV coverage of mainline points and crossings in yard area at vulnerable stations of 9 stations in phase-1 Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Londa, Gadag, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Hosapete and Ballari stations of Hubballi Division.	**Rs. 18,99,21,771/-**

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08-06-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer
Projects / Bengaluru
PUB/125/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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Fernandes named PL Player of the Season

Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes was named Premier League Player of the Season on Saturday. Fernandes has equalled the record for most assists in a single PL campaign with 20, alongside Thierry Henry and Kevin De Bruyne. He has also scored eight league goals for United this term, helping team secure qualification for Champions League.

TIME TO MAKE BIG MOVES

With just six months remaining between now and the title match, **Swaroop Swaminathan** tries to analyse why Norway Chess is an important pitstop for Gukesh...

ON June 1 2025, D Gukesh, in a way, had reached the apogee of his career for a second time. Sure, he was already the youngest undisputed men's world champion. But in elite chess, you have beat Magnus Carlsen in an OTB Classical game to seemingly earn the respect of your contemporaries as well as legends. On that grim cloudy Sunday in Stavanger, the stars finally aligned for the Indian teen as took down the Norwegian great in an endgame for the ages.

As soon as the world No. 1 knew he was about to lose, he lost control and slammed the table in frustration. It sent pieces flying off the board. Lost in the game's most viral moment of the year — Champions League winners PSG tweeted about it and Indian influencers on Insta went to town about it — was what the potential of what the win could do for Gukesh's still fledgling career. It's fair to say the win hasn't had the desired effect. In fact, the Indian has endured a wretched last 12 months. So much so that he pulled out of featuring in the Grand Chess Tour to focus on 'training'. It's why his next two weeks is an important pitstop in an already truncated season as he builds up to defend the title against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. At the Norway Chess in Oslo, one of the most prestigious events on the calendar, the teen will make a return to the Classical format for the first time since the first week of March.

****

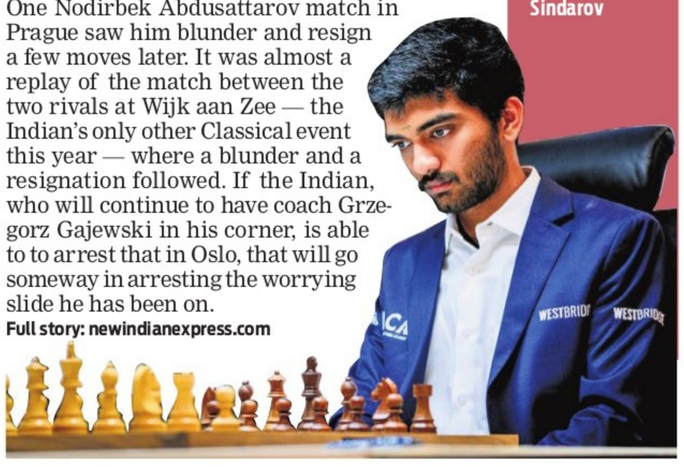
At an event in Stockholm in April, Carlsen, who will be the favourite to retain Norway Chess, had anointed Sindarov as the 'favourite' in that upcoming title match later this year. "At the moment, it's impossible not to say Sindarov," the Norwegian five-time champ had said. "We know anything can happen in a World Championship match. Gukesh has very obvious weaknesses... Sindarov does not. He is a lot more rounded." Comments like these have followed Gukesh ever since he became world champion in 2024. In fact, it has been suggested to this paper that the 19-year-old — he will turn 20 during the course of the Oslo competition — has had to work on the mental side of the game because of the intense scrutiny his crown has received. Only last month, Garry Kasparov, one of the greatest to have ever moved a piece, also wasted little time in calling the Uzbek as the favourite. "The way he won the Candidates, it was very impressive. It's hard to impress me, but the way Sindarov played... exceptional. Sindarov looks like the clear favourite." That's also true because Sindarov's Candidates performances and results were generational. He broke records and won with a round to spare.

****

Apart from Carlsen, Gukesh will also face Wesley So (World No. 10), R Praggnanandhaa (World No. 16), Alireza Firouzja (World No. 11) and Vincent Keymer (World No. 7). So this tournament is going to accurately capture where Gukesh is right now, both in terms of the reset he decided to have earlier this year and whether he has rediscovered his ability to grind out wins while playing fighting chess.

What made the Indian a great player at such a young age was his ability to keep finding resources — something Kasparov also mentioned — to either push for a win or fight in losing endgames. Some of his games in recent times, however, has seen him lose because of a blunder. One Nodirbek Abdusattarov match in Prague saw him blunder and resign a few moves later. It was almost a replay of the match between the two rivals at Wijk aan Zee — the Indian's only other Classical event this year — where a blunder and a resignation followed. If the Indian, who will continue to have coach Grzegorz Gajewski in his corner, is able to to arrest that in Oslo, that will go someway in arresting the worrying slide he has been on.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



SUNDAY SPECIAL

Gukesh since becoming world champion in 2024

- Pulled out of the full season of Grand Chess Tour events in 2026 to focus on training
- Yet to win an individual Classical tournament after becoming world champion
- Was eliminated from the World Cup at home after just two rounds in 2025
- Was World No. 3 in April 2025. Since then has lost over 50 rating points and is now outside the world's top 15
- Has featured in only two Classical events in 2026 (Wijk aan Zee and Prague)
- Took a holiday as he wanted to reconnect with nature late last year. He has also gone on meditation breaks, not a surprise considering he has spoken about how it brings inner peace and calm to him
- Has started to.prep specifically for the upcoming title clash against Javokhir Sindarov

Vishal makes history, Gurindervir breaks record

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Ranchi

THE 400m event in India was always going to have more eyes. Historically, the country has seen some success in this event, beginning from Milkha Singh's 45.6 second run. Then, the likes of Arokia Rajiv and Muhammed Anas Yahiya helped put India on the map, with the latter winning India's first gold at a global meet (2018 Commonwealth Games) in a track event.

However, quartermiler Vishal TK's run on Day 2 of the National Senior Athletics competition at the Birsa Munda stadium broke a long- standing barrier – clocking under 45 seconds. In the men's 400m final on a pleasant evening here, Vishal got himself ahead after the first block, and steered clear of his opponents by the last straight.

And when the screen near the finish line glowed 44.98 seconds, Vishal cried his heart out. His father Thennarasu rushed to him to share a hug, before finding out his coach Jason Dawson was sprinting towards him. Dawson, generally a no-nonsense taskmaster, broke character for his ward, showing how much this effort to them. "I made my mind up before entering this race. I know I can run 44 seconds but I kept it tight. Everyone said you can run 44 seconds, but I simply said, 'let's see.' But I trained hard for this. It's always behind the scenes," Vishal told reporters after his record-breaking run. While conditions in Ranchi have influenced athlete performance in different ways so far. Vishal was not deterred by it. "It was about the mindset. I can run on the sea too!," he added.

Even after a national record run last year's Senior Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai, (45.12 seconds), coach Dawson had said that Vishal has to work on his running form and has a lot to improve. "This is my coach's mindset that I have. He taught me a lot. I'm still learning from him. Still more to come. I'm still learning how to run," Vishal said.

Vishal TK celebrates after a record finish in the 400m race on Saturday | EXPRESS

Tejaswin third time lucky

Tejaswin Shankar breached the 8000-point mark in the men's decathlon. In addition to breaching the national record (8057 points), he also bettered the qualification mark for the Commonwealth Games. "I was very happy to be able to achieve this. Because I had this opportunity to do it twice this season. In the heptathlon, I was this close to the 6000-point barrier but did 5997. And that really stung. Even though my best before that was 5657 or something like that. But I knew I was in shape to get that 6000-point barrier. Sometimes, when you are that close, you get more stings. Versus, if I am at 5800, I don't know if I would have scored 200 or 100," he told reporters after his 1500m run. "It's just things that play on your mind. The exact same thing happened 3-4 months after that in San Angelo. When I did my first decathlon. Explosive day 1. Again, day 2, I had some breakthrough performances in the pole vault. Then 1500m, all I had to run was a 4:40 in the 1500, and I ended up running 4:51," he said.

Tejaswin's goal for the day was to clock 4 minutes and 37 seconds in 1500m event. "In my mind, I was thinking 4:37 was what I needed to break that 8000 point. But I was like, I'll stick to my pace. Which is around 1:11 for 400m, 2:22 for the 800 and try to get to 3:35-3:36 for the 1200m. Right at the closing, when I saw myself at that 1400 metre mark. I was (clocking) around 4:12. I asked myself, I can try and break 430. But I also thought about slowing down. Then I thought, 'where will I get a chance like this in life?' So I just went for it. And when I saw a 439 pop up, I was very happy," he said.

Inching towards sub-10s run, one step at a time

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Ranchi

AS two of the country's fastest men Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh were going through their stretching rituals on the 100m track at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, history seemed to be looming in the calm evening horizon. It was more than just a premonition. It was on expected lines.

If Gurindervir stopped short of sub 10 sec, one athlete stole the show. Vishal TK. He became the first Indian to run below 45 seconds in one of the most competitive races in 400m. In less than 24 hours after both sprinters broke the national record within minutes, all eyes were on the final of the men's 100m event on Day 2 of the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition. With Kujur clocking at 10.15s after Singh's 10.17s run on Friday, there was growing belief that these marks may get shattered on Saturday. And the belief came to reality. Riding on a brilliant start, Gurindervir continued keeping the pace and built a comfortable gap by 100m standards with Kujur. In the last twenty metres, he paced up, raced to the finish line, and the screen displayed '10.09s,'. There were collective oohs and wows across the stadium. What followed next was an outburst of emotions. Gurindervir's note behind his bib suggested that he is not going to settle for just this feat. Nor Kujur who finished second with a timing of 10.20s. Reliance foundation's athletics director and English coach James Hillier felt there is more to come. Last year was where both Kujur and Gurindervir lowered the mark from 10.22 to 10.18. A sub-1o seems a reality. "Our goal this year was to try and qualify for the Commonwealth Games," Hillier told this daily before the men's final. And both of his sprinters have breached the qualification mark (10.16s) for the biennial event in Glasgow. "(For Gurindervir) anything from 10.06 to 10.10 is where I felt he could do, if he executed perfectly. So, he's still got a little bit more execution ahead. But also, we expect him to improve this year and next year," he said after the final.

Gurindervir Singh

PB for Krishna

Chennai's Krishna Jayasankar shone at the women's shot put final, throwing a personal best mark of 17.35m. However, she missed out on the Commonwealth Games qualification mark by 30cm.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Vinesh in selection trials: Challenges she can face

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

WITH the Delhi High Court on Saturday issuing the order allowing wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asian Games selection trials, focus shifts to her potential rivals in the upcoming competitions.

Even as the two-time World Championships bronze medallist had registered in the 57kg for the Senior Open Ranking Tournament, where eventually she was not allowed to compete, suspense continues over the weight category she will compete in the trials. The trials for women wrestlers will be held on May 30 in New Delhi while the men's trials will be organised the next day in Lucknow.

As Vinesh's last competitive event was the 2024 Paris Olympics where she participated in the 50kg weight category, she could participate in the same weight division, though unlikely. In 50kg, she might be challenged by Ankush, Neelam, Shiwani Pawar and Sweety. Ankush recently won a bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Championships but that came in 57kg. She, however, has won a silver medal in the 2022 U23 World Championships in 50kg. Similarly, Neelam has pocketed quite a few international medals in the weight category. Sweety has also bagged a silver medal in the 2022 U20 Asian Championships.

Antim big name in 53 kg

In 53 kg, which is considered to be a pet weight category of Vinesh, Antim will be her biggest rival. The two had met in the past during the selection trials but the upcoming one will be a treat to watch, if it happens. Antim had won a bronze medal in the 2022 Asian Games, which was held in 2023, in 53kg. She also clinched a gold medal each in the 2023 and 2022 U20 World Championships in the same weight category.

Meenakhshi will be another tough opponent in the weight class. She finished second in the 2026 Asian Championships and won a silver medal at the Muhamet Malo Tournament earlier this year. In 2024, she bagged the gold medal at the U23 Asian Championships. She also won a silver medal at the Cadets World Championships in 2018.

Muskan, who usually competes in 50kg and won a bronze at the Muhamet Malo Tournament earlier this year, is expected to feature in the 53kg. Nishu also may give Vinesh a tough fight. She competes in 55kg but competitions are held in only six Olympic weight categories at the Asiad and that may force Nishu to compete in 53kg. Hansika Lamba can also compete in same category.

Quite a few in 57kg

In the 57kg weight category, Manish, Neha Sangwan and Tapsya could be the main challengers. Given the competitions in weight categories where Vinesh may compete, the selection trials are expected to be a tough one for the 31-year-old. A win here, however, could help her forget the Paris Games heartbreak to some extent and restart her journey afresh eyeing a medal at the Asian Games.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

FIFA WC TV deal to be signed next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AFTER months of uncertainty, FIFA, the world governing body, has managed a breakthrough in talks with a media house to show all matches of the 2026 World Cup in India. Talks had seemingly hit an impasse earlier. They had initially come to the Indian market with an asking price of $100mn but had slashed their rates to $60mn. There weren't many takers even at that price point because of the timing (most games are scheduled to start post midnight IST). At this time, things have changed for the better. "It's done, wait for the official announcement early next week," was how a source described the breakthrough in talks.

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

With the play-off spots to be finalised on the last day of the league stage. A look...

Can MI spoil RR party?

For Rajasthan Royals, its simple. All they have to do is beat Mumbai Indians and qualify. But if Mumbai gets the better of Royals, their season will be over.

Bumrah vs Vaibhav Rd 2

In Guwahati, when Vaibhav Sooryavanshi faced Jasprit Bumrah, the teen sensation took him to the cleaners. In round two, can Bumrah get better of him?

Kolkata's revival

Having bounced back after early struggles, KKR want RR to lose before beating DC by big margin. If they bat first and score, say, 200, they will need to win by 77 runs. And if KKR chase a total around 180, they will need to get there in 12 to 12.4 overs.

MI vs RR, Wankhede, 3.30 PM
KKR vs DC, Kolkata, 7.30PM
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar

Shreyas keeps PBKS alive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SKIPPER Shreyas Iyer scored a sensational hundred (101 n.o) as Punjab Kings beat Lucknow Super Giants by seven wickets in their final league game to keep play-off hopes alive. Chasing 197, Iyer, along with Prabhsimran Singh (69), helped PBKS break the six-match losing streak. Now, they need Rajasthan Royals to lose and Kolkata Knight Riders to lose or win by the barest margin to stay in the top four.

Brief scores: LSG 196/6 in 20 ovs (Inglis 72; Chahal 2/25, Jansen 2/33) **lost to** PBKS 200/3 in 18 ovs (Iyer 101 n.o, Prabhsimran 69).

Shreyas Iyer hits the ball over point in Lucknow on Saturday | BCCI

EXPRESS READ

Bhambri and Venus end runners-up in Geneva

GENEVA: India's Yuki Bhambri and his New Zealand partner Michael Venus finished runners-up at the Geneva Open after suffering a hard-fought defeat in the ATP 250 doubles final here on Saturday. The third-seeded Indo-Kiwi pair lost 6-3, 6-7 (7), 7-10 to Romain Arneodo of Monaco and Australia's Marc Polmans in a closely-contested summit clash that lasted nearly two hours.

Biryukov clinches singles crown

BENGALURU: Fourth seed Petr Bar Biryukov held off Ilya Ivashka 7-6 (0), 4-6, 6-4 in a pulsating three-set battle to win the men's singles title at the SM Krishna Memorial Open on Saturday. Adil Kalyanpur and Mukund Sasikumar capped an impressive week by claiming the doubles crown. They defeated Biryukov and Grigoriy Lomakin of Kazakhstan 6-7 (3), 6-4, 10-3.

Pragg draws with Vachier-Lagrave

BUCHAREST: R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France even as the race for the title tightened at the end of the penultimate round of the Super Chess Classic here. The clash between overnight leaders Fabiano Caruana and Vincent Keymer ended in a draw while Javokhir Sindarov scored his second victory on the trot.

SINNER EYES MAIDEN FRENCH OPEN TITLE

The cream of tennis will be in the spotlight when the French Open, the year's second Grand Slam, begins on Sunday. A look...

Live on Sony Sports Network

MEN

Novak Djokovic

Djokovic continues to chase an unprecedented 25th Major title. But the former champion is in Paris with only one match on clay this season and only three tournaments all year because of a shoulder injury.

Alexander Zverev

The No 2 seed will have high hopes of finally ending his wait for a maiden Grand Slam. But past record is not good. He has lost in three finals and nine semifinals since winning an ATP tournament 13 months ago.

Jannik Sinner

With Carlos Alcaraz out injured, Sinner is the overwhelming men's favourite. The Italian is unbeaten in three months. He has won 29 straight matches and dropped just three sets. He is yet to win French Open.

Casper Ruud : Ruud has been one of the circuit's top clay-court players for years and was beaten only by Sinner in the Italian Open final. Ruud, who has two final appearances at the Roland Garros (2022, 2023), will be one to keep a close eye on.

Other contenders: Arthur Fils, Daniil Medvedev

WOMEN

Coco Gauff

Coco Gauff is trying to become just the third woman to successfully defend the Roland Garros title this century after Justine Henin and Iga Swiatek. Gauff will start her campaign against Taylor Townsend, a doubles specialist.

Iga Swiatek

For the first time since 2022, Swiatek starts without the status of defending champion but, she said on Friday, "it doesn't matter". Swiatek first won the clay-court Grand Slam in 2020 and then won in 2022, 2023 & 2024.

Aryna Sabalenka

Sabalenka, the top-ranked woman for approaching two years, has only won three titles on clay, all in Madrid. Her best showing in the clay-court Grand Slam was last year when she lost the final in three sets to Gauff.

Elina Svitolina : Svitolina claimed the Rome title for her first WTA 1000 trophy in eight years — and is back in the top 10 after a maternity leave. But she has never been past the semifinals of a Grand Slam, and never past the quarterfinals at the French Open.

Other contenders: Elena Rybakina, Jessica Pegula

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